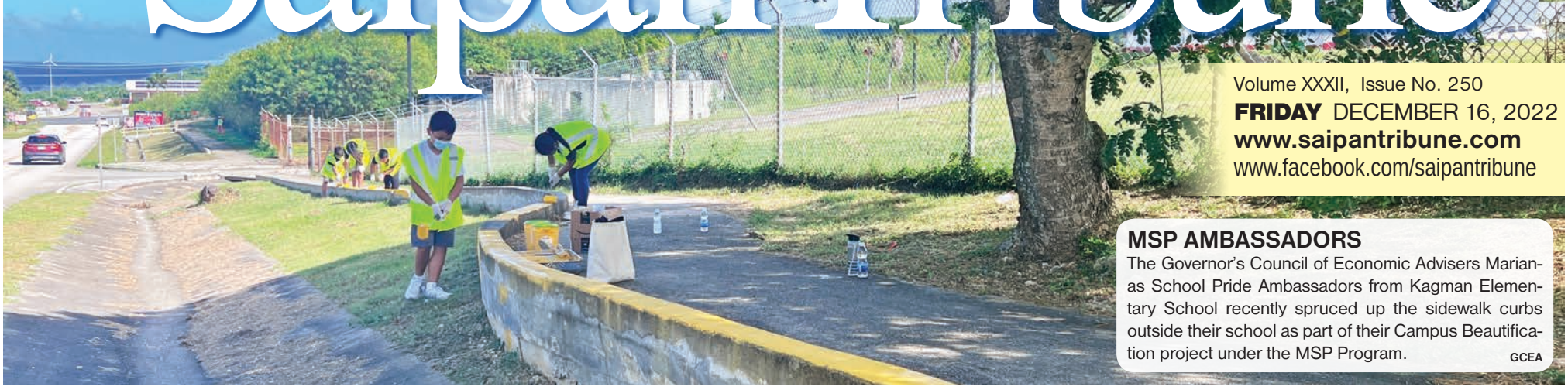
Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

$1

Volume XXXII, Issue No. 250
FRIDAY DECEMBER 16, 2022
www.saipantribune.com
www.facebook.com/saipantribune

$20K bail for man accused of beating his girlfriend. PAGE 3
USCIS announces trial for updates to the naturalization test. PAGE 6



MSP AMBASSADORS
The Governor's Council of Economic Advisers Marianas School Pride Ambassadors from Kagman Elementary School recently spruced up the sidewalk curbs outside their school as part of their Campus Beautification project under the MSP Program. GCEA

Receiver launches 3rd IPI auction

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The receiver appointed by the U.S. District Court for the NMI to carry out six auctions to sell off Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's assets to satisfy pending court judgments has recently launched the third auction.

Clear Management Ltd. officially launched the third auction of IPI's gaming equipment last Dec. 10 at www.gamingequipmentauction.com and it is set to close on Jan. 6.

Clear Management closed the second auction of IPI gaming equipment last Dec. 9.

As of press time, Clear

See RECEIVER on Page 4

'CEC will definitely certify runoff results today'

Igitol

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» With Cepeda confirming his attendance, CEC obtains quorum

The Commonwealth Election Commission board will definitely certify the gubernatorial runoff election results today, Friday, because five commissioners have confirmed their attendance

See CEC on Page 4

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

The Commonwealth Election Commission board will hold a meeting today, Friday, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, where the commissioners are expected to certify the results of the Nov. 25 gubernatorial runoff election. The multi-purpose center will also be the inauguration site for governor-elect Arnold I. Palacios and lieutenant governor-elect David M. Apatang on Jan. 9, 2023.

Ada: PSS staff selected to perform work for transition team to take annual leave

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Ada

Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred B. Ada said Wednesday that any Public School System employee selected by the transition team of governor-elect Arnold I. Palacios and lieutenant governor-elect David M. Apatang to perform any transition work during regular work hours must apply for annual leave.

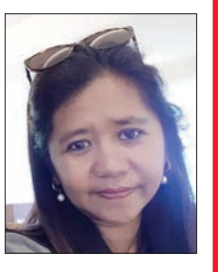
Ada advised affect-

See ADA on Page 4

The Christmas season unites businesses and our community

TOGETHER, WE CAN

By JENNIFER ELAYDA
Special to the Saipan Tribune



Jennifer Elayda is a mother of three and is the president of JNL Corp., a construction and cleaning business. Elayda's dream was to open a CNMI-friendly restaurant, which she did amidst the pandemic in 2020. Savory Bistro Cafe is located in Garapan.

One of my favorite things about the Christmas season is that it creates a sense of warmth and togetherness. As soon as November arrives, we see people begin putting up decorations in preparation for the holidays. With everyone taking part, it's safe to say that we all look

See TOGETHER on Page 4

INSIDE

SUPPLEMENT
Today's issue comes with a supplement, Give Love on Christmas Day, on holiday deals.

PAGE 15

BUSINESS
Kensington Hotel Saipan has brought in the heavy guns for its culinary team.

PAGE 29

LIFE & STYLE
Eddie Murphy will receive the Cecil B. DeMille Award at the 80th Golden Globes.

PAGE 31

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

USCG completes patrol with local partners, returns son of Tinian home

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Oliver Henry* crew completed a local patrol off Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands from Nov. 28 to Dec. 7, 2022, including the first-ever 154-foot fast response cutter port visit to Tinian.

"Being able to take *Oliver Henry* into Tinian for a port visit was a surreal experience and the highlight of my career," said Lt. Freddy Hofschneider. "I am proud to represent all Micronesians who have served or are serving our Coast Guard honorably, including those of us from the CNMI. If you were to tell me 20 years ago that I'd be the captain of a Coast Guard cutter pulling into Tinian, I probably would've said there's no way. It speaks volumes to the incredible career opportunities the Coast Guard provides and that anything is possible, even if you're from a small Pacific Island community."

The objectives of this patrol included:

- Supporting Maritime Safety and Security Team Honolulu.
- Validating Tinian as a port of call for future U.S. Coast Guard ship visits.
- Conducting community engagements in CNMI.

During the patrol, *Oliver Henry*'s crew assisted MSST *Honolulu*'s boarding team in conducting law enforcement operations resulting in seven recreational safety boardings, four uninspected passenger vessel boardings, and two commercial passenger vessel boardings. The purpose of these boardings is safety to ensure the material condition of the vessels, the suitability and compliance of required equipment, and any required credentials. The team issued four warnings for safety infractions. The team went on to conduct interagency law enforcement operations with Tinian's Department of Public Safety's Boating Safety Division for two additional recreational safety boardings.

"It's important to build capacity smartly and leverage our interagency options when we can out here," said Capt. Nick Simmons, commander of U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam. "The mission and our footprint continue to expand, as does the demand for U.S. Coast Guard support throughout Micronesia. As we work to be a preferred partner and a good neighbor, we are eager to work together to support regional safety and security."

The crew also teamed up with CNMI Customs & Biosecurity officers and Tinian DPS – BSD officers to share best practices and learn from each other. While in Saipan and Tinian, the crew held three community events, including hosting 68 students from the Tasi to Table nonprofit organization dedicated to engaging youth on fishing methodologies, boating safety, environmental stewardship, and supporting mental health and the Tinian Typhoon Sports Association.

"Engagements on these patrols provide an opportunity for relationship building and to deepen our understanding of partners and the challenges we face together," said Simmons. "It's different out here. We regularly send our teams hundreds if not thousands of miles as we seek to cover a 1.9 million square mile area of responsibility with some very austere locations and a lot of water in between. The only way to do that is working with our regional partners at the territory and international levels and with the Joint Force and interagency teams."

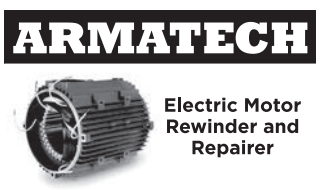
As the USCG continues efforts to recruit new members, a final highlight was conducting a swearing-in ceremony for two new U.S. Coast Guard recruits and a follow-on familiarization ride aboard *Oliver Henry* from Saipan to Tinian.

"Our visit to Saipan and Tinian is part of our continued efforts to strengthen relationships and partner capacity with our fellow maritime agencies while promoting goodwill with the island communities, especially our youth. The crew thoroughly enjoyed visiting the islands and experiencing the warm hospitality," said Hofschneider.

The U.S. Coast Guard conducts routine deployments in

See USCG on Page 4

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS MUSEUM OF HISTORY & CULTURE
Fiesta FRIDAYS
PLEASE JOIN US IN WELCOMING
THE GUAM ARMY NATIONAL GUARD ROCK BAND
Fiesta Friday Schedule for
December 2022 and January 2023:
December 16, January 6,
January 20, January 27
Good Food,
Great Entertainment,
Bouncy House For Kids
Performers:
Guam Army National Guard 721st Rock Band
Sugar Ray • Ana Glushko Academy • Petlas
Featured Vendors:
Isla Shave Ice • RJ Pizza
Chagi Norf • Buenas Café
Abygnale's • Kikass Snack Bar
Tyler's Gelatte Stone • Heavenly Bites
APU • V- Lynns BBQ • Mini Thai Catering
Chowtime • Island Grindz
Musubiya • Ocean Star Restaurant
Pate Puffs and Pastries
Flowerpot Creations • Bonitu Basula
Info Booth:
NMTECH
Kids Activity:
Bouncy Houses
Happy Holidays Marianas from the
NMI Museum of History and Culture
FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL 670.664-2160 • WWW.NMIMUSEUM.ORG


ARMATECH
Electric Motor Rewinder and Repairer
Tel: (670) 234-8895 | Email: armatech.saipan@gmail.com
Mobile: (670) 287-5525 / (670) 783-8895

Accident brings Tears
Safety brings Cheers
a friendly reminder from
LP GAS
WUSHIN
Since 1983
Committed to Safety Excellence
For your LPGas needs, please call 322-7415 or 322-8733
Open from 8:00am – 5:00pm Monday to Friday | 8:00am – 2:00pm Saturday

HANA
HEALTH MASSAGE
SERVICES OFFERED
▪ Body (Oil) Massage ▪ Foot Massage (with medicine) ▪ Cupping Therapy (Suction cup massage for back pain)
▪ NEW! Table Shower and Body Scrub Spa - Soon in San Antonio Location
SPECIAL PROMO
▪ 90 minutes Body (Oil) Massage $30
Locations: ▪ MSV Building, Chalan Kanoa across Moonlight
▪ NEW location → San Antonio, across Afetna Super Market
10:00AM TO 12:00AM • Call HANA: 789-7778
WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS

$20K bail for man accused of beating his girlfriend

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court has imposed a $20,000 cash bail on a man who is accused of beating his girlfriend in a fit of rage.

During a bail hearing last Wednesday, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho imposed a $20,000 cash bail on John Jacob Sablan Magofna who is being accused of beating his girlfriend.

Magofna, 28, is facing charges of disturbing the peace, assault, and assault and battery.

Following his hearing, Camacho remanded Magofna back to Department of Corrections custody and ordered him to return to court on Dec. 21, for a preliminary hearing. Magofna's arraignment is set for January 2023.

According to court documents, Department of Public Safety officers were dispatched to a residence in Kagman last Monday at around 3:28am to respond to a disturbance call. At the scene, police met with the caller and victim of this case, who was in tears, claiming that her boyfriend, Magofna, had been assaulting her.

Police who responded to the call said they observed swelling on the woman's leg and faint red marks on her neck.

In a brief interview with the victim at the scene, she told police that when Magofna came home from work at around 12:20am, they got into a heated argument and the defendant hit and shoved her.

After the argument, the victim decided that she would sleep in the guest room of their residence and proceeded to move some of her clothes there with a basket, further angering Magofna.

The victim said Magofna pulled the basket from her before using both his hands to push her back into their room.

When the victim fell onto a bed, Magofna allegedly started hitting her in the face and when she blocked her face, he then hit the back of her head.

After the bedroom assault, the victim said she went to the living room to call family members to pick her up, but they never did. When Magofna heard what she was doing in the living room, he followed her.

In the living room, Magofna allegedly pushed the victim onto a couch and started to hit her again. She claims she tried to push Magofna off of her and yell but he pinned her down and covered her mouth with his hands so she just waited for him to stop beating her.

When Magofna went to bed, the victim said that's when she called police for help.

The victim also told police that Magofna had beaten her up before.

The defendant was arrested at their residence and transported to DOC after speaking with the victim.

HEALTHY NUTRITION TRAINING

Thirteen parents from the Family-to-Family program under the Northern Marianas College – Cooperative Research, Extension, and Education Services' Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program recently completed nine lessons focused on nutrition, physical activity, healthy recipes, and food safety. EFNEP offers free nutrition classes to help families and the youth cook healthy meals at home, be more active, save money on food costs, and handle food safely. EFNEP is free and available on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. Community members who would like to enroll in the program are asked to visit bit.ly/EFNEPReg02, call (670) 237-6852/3, or email efnep@marianas.edu. NMC

Power service interruptions on Dec. 20

There will be scheduled power service interruptions on Dec. 20, 2022, as the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. continues its ongoing system maintenance.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2022

- Time: 9am to 1pm
- Area(s) affected: Papago Drive in Papago.
- Purpose: To replace rotted power pole and to straighten leaning primary power poles along Papago Drive.
- Water wells affected: None
- Wastewater facility affected: None

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2022

- Time: 9am to 1pm
- Area(s) affected: Bayak Drive and Faha Place in As Perdido.
- Purpose: To perform line clearing along Bayak Drive.
- Water wells affected: None
- Wastewater facility affected: None

CUC continues to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(PR)***

ISLAND TRAINING SOLUTIONS

WE ARE HIRING!

We are looking for an energetic, assertive and self-motivated individual to work directly with the President of the company in a dynamic setting. The right person must have the confidence to actively network and be an effective liaison on behalf of the company; be comfortable expressing ideas, concepts and ideas for the improvement of the company & customers; and also have the ability to adapt and respond effectively to company and customer needs. Full or Part-time applicants welcome.

OPEN POSITION:

Project Assistant

- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Ability to work independently and be a self-starter
- Competent with Word, Excel, PowerPoint
- Can update website and social media platforms
- Able to organize, compile, and interpret date
- Have reliable transportation

APPLY NOW

SEND YOUR RESUME TO:
islandtrainingsolutions@gmail.com

MORE INFORMATION:
670-287-7037
www.islandtrainingcnmi.com

BOOGIE DOWN

The CNMI's best surfers perform different maneuvers in the first surfing competition in the Marianas dubbed as Boogie Down at Obyan. Sixteen surfers joined the two-day event at Obyan Beach that kicked of Saturday and ended Sunday. Boat captain Frank Ramon was declared champion. Masaki Kitami grabbed second place and received the Wave of the Day award. Solomon Castro got third place.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

RECEIVER

From Page 1

Management, through its attorney, Michael White, had yet to file a report with the District Court on the items that have been auctioned off, and how many bidders participated in the second auction, and how much was raised from the Dec. 9 auction.

According to details posted online about the auctions, the first auction focused mainly on card shufflers and chip sorters. The second auction, which concluded last Dec. 9, focused on gaming tables, chairs, and slot machine stools, which is expected to net more than the first auction.

IPI has since been trying to, again, halt the proceedings, but so far their efforts have been repeatedly shut down by the court.

Last Nov. 17, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramon Manglona confirmed the first sale of IPI's gaming equipment, which netted over $400,000.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, following the conclusion of the first series of auctions last Oct. 7, Clear Management received bids from all over the world totaling $410,000.

All World Consulting submitted bids on 116 card shufflers. It was the successful bidder on 78 card shufflers. The total amount of its successful bids was $270,000.

MP Holdings LLC submitted bids on 60 card shufflers but none of its bids were successful.

IPG International submitted bids on 48 card shufflers and three Chipstars. It was the high bidder on 20 card shufflers. The total amount of its successful bids was $50,000.

Gaming Supplies, LLC, submitted bids on 116 card shufflers and three Chipstars. It was the high bidder on four shufflers and three Chipstars. The total amount of its successful bids was $91,000.

Grand Hyatt Jeju submitted bids on 14 card shufflers. It was the high bidder on all 14. The total amount of its successful bids was $65,300.

CEC

From Page 1

at a scheduled meeting, and therefore there will be a quorum, according to CEC executive director Kayla S. Igitol yesterday.

In response to *Saipan Tribune*'s inquiry, Igitol said that commissioner Jesus S. Cepeda, who has a scheduled meeting yesterday and today, confirmed that he will attend the CEC board meeting at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe today at 1pm.

The CEC board meeting was originally set for yesterday, but CEC board chair Jesus I. Sablan rescheduled it to today because of Cepeda's other meeting.

Cepeda is a police lieutenant at the Department of Public Safety.

The four other commissioners who also confirmed their attendance at today's meeting are Jesus I. Sablan, John Diego Attao, Jonathan Christopher A. Manglona, and Lelanie I. Manglona.

Five commissioners are needed to establish a quorum. There are nine commissioner positions, but at present, there are only seven commissioners.

Igitol said yesterday that commissioner Esther A. Yatar is currently in Guam for a death in the family, while commissioner Dorisann Aldan-Atalig is presently in the Philippines for medical purposes.

With Cepeda confirming his attendance in today's meeting, there will be quorum even without a new commissioner joining the board, Igitol said.

Before certifying the runoff election results, the panel of tabulators, which is composed of CEC commissioners, will count the 78 absentee votes that were previously set aside after being challenged, Igitol said.

Before counting the votes, she said, they need to match the affidavits to the actual requests for absentee ballots.

At the confirmation hearing for Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' appointment of former special assistant for Women's Affairs Remedio Sablan before the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations Wednesday, Sablan said that, although he reset the board meeting to today, he is still worried that they won't be able to have a quorum. He urged the committee to immediately confirm the 71-year-old Remedio Sablan so she could join the meeting and the board can certify the runoff election results. The Senate has yet to confirm Remedio Sablan as of yesterday.

Last Monday, Juan S. Reyes, who is the overall chairman of the transition and inauguration committees, stated that the CEC board's non-certification of the runoff election results is hampering their movement.

ADA

From Page 1

ed PSS employees in a memorandum to communicate with and obtain the approval of their immediate supervisor first and urged PSS employees to reach out to their immediate supervisor about the transition matter.

Last Friday, Juan S. Reyes, the executive chairman of the transition and inauguration committees for the office of Palacios and Apatang, asked for Ada's assistance in authorizing the temporary assignment of some PSS personnel to help in the transition and inauguration committees.

Reyes attached in his letter to the commissioner a list of PSS personnel that are immediately needed within this week to commence the initial contact for the transition and the planning efforts for the inauguration committees.

The inauguration of Palacios and Apatang will be on Jan. 9, 2023.

The Commonwealth Election Commission board is expected to certify the gubernatorial runoff election results during a meeting today, Friday.

TOGETHER

From Page 1

forward to this time of year.

Looking back at the worldwide pandemic when everything looked bleak and dark, I am proud that our company grew out of it. Savory Bistro Café began as a take-out snack bar, and we made it easy for people to order food during the period of social distancing. As an established location, we made a point of keeping our lights on to provide a little light for the people around us. We can spread a little more joy and positivity for those who decide to come in or simply pass by. We wanted to convey the message that as a people, we are resilient and capable of rebuilding ourselves.

The CNMI is our second home, and my husband and I do what we can to spread positivity. The CNMI people have been welcoming to us, and we are grateful to see our restaurant filled with residents and visitors enjoying our karaoke room and delicious food.

Before we opened, we spent months working on our recipes. We eventually came to a point where our food became better than what we expected. It took us a while to get here, and we had a lot of support from the community along this journey. Our family is now able to witness our community enjoying our passion for food.

We take pride in serving our customers well and making sure their meals are delicious. We invite you to stop in, try our food, and spread the word. We hope to have the opportunity to provide you with excellent service this holiday season.

Christmas Decorating Contest

Last year, we shared our light decorations with the CNMI community and were shocked, but happy, to learn that we won the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers' Marianas Village Pride Campaign's Christmas Decorating Contest. The grand prize was a $1,000 paint store credit, and we are pleased to share that it has been extremely helpful in the renovation of our new location. We have plans to relocate our establishment sometime next year and have put a lot of effort into it so that we can better serve the public. The prize contributed significantly to making that goal a reality.

This year, for the GCEA's Marianas Business Pride Christmas Decorating Contest, we aim to create a traditional Christmas scene with a visible manger illuminated with lights. A simple approach is never wrong when it comes to Christmas, as long as your heart is in it. We hope to provide a more traditional view of the culture from which our food comes from, and show our collective passion and love for the Christmas season.

I encourage all businesses to join the GCEA's MBP Christmas Decorating Contest. The grand prize has helped me spruce up our next location, and I can only imagine how it can benefit you!

This is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate your artistic abilities and unite as a community. Brighten your establishments with as many colorful lights as possible—the more the merrier. As we all look forward to a wonderful holiday season, we wish you a very merry Christmas. Together, We Can!

For more information visit the GCEA website at cnmieconomy.com. Engage with the Council on Facebook and Instagram (@cnmigov.economy) or contact them at gceacnmi@gmail.com.

USCG

From Page 2

Oceania as part of Operation Blue Pacific, working alongside allies, building maritime domain awareness, and sharing best practices with partner nation navies and coast guards. Op Blue Pacific seeks to strengthen partnerships and execute a mission to support maritime governance and the rule of law in the region. To this, we must understand, measure, and articulate regional influences and relationships and provide our crews with the best operational assets and support to get the mission done safely and return.

The 154-foot *Oliver Henry* is the 40th Sentinel-class fast response cutter. The ship was commissioned along with its sister ships, *Myrtle Hazard* and *Frederick Hatch*, in Guam in July 2021. Since commissioning, the crew has participated in many operations, including an expeditionary patrol over 8,000 nautical miles throughout Oceania to Australia and back for Op Blue Pacific. ***(USCG)***

SNILD appropriates $430K for road repair project, several NGOs

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation passed Friday a local bill that will appropriate unobligated funds under Saipan Local Law 22-10 in the amount of $430,000 from the casino license fees collected from the casino licensee, Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC.

All 13 SNILD members present at the session voted "yes" to pass House of Representatives Local Bill 22-43, Substitute 1. Rep. Sheila J. Babauta (D-Saipan) abstained from voting.

Babauta said she completely supports passing this bill, but she also serves as a board member on one of the nonprofit organizations listed. She said she also has done work with many of the NGOs listed and has personal relationship and friendship with people "doing a lot these good work."

"So I am going to abstain from voting," Babauta said.

SNILD chair Sen. Vinnie Vinson F. Sablan (R-Saipan) presided over the session.

Vice Speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao, who is the principal author of the original bill, said these are the unobligated funds that were line-item vetoed. Attao said the money was supposed to go to the mayor of Saipan and the Kagman Watershed Project.

"Just to let the members know that the Kagman Watershed Project is not a forgotten project," he said, adding that they will address the funding for that project in the next appropriation once they get into the 23rd Legislature.

Attao said they are not moving money away from the Kagman Watershed Project, but it has already been line-item vetoed twice so they will address the funding in the 23rd Legislature.

Attao's original bill proposed to appropriate $430,000 for the mitigation of flood and road repair project on Flores Rosa Street in Garapan and surrounding areas.The vice speaker then moved to file a substitute bill to Local Bill 22-43, as some NGOs asked for some help.

He said the only main difference in the substitute bill is they're removing $150,000 from the Flores Rosa Street project funding, reducing the amount to $280,000.

"Hopefully this should be enough money to address that issue. Although we took away $150,000, that's fine. We're willing to sacrifice some money from Precinct 3 to address the needs of the non-government organizations," Attao said.

He said they added the Northern Marianas Athletics, which will be receiving $40,000.

Attao said the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc. will be getting $15,000; Karidat, $15,000; Chief Aghurubw Foundation, $10,000; Northern Marianas Library Association, $10,000; Manhita Marianas, $10,000; Our Common Wealth 670, $10,000; Talaya Club, $10,000; Pride Marianas, $10,000; Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation, $10,000; and Marianas Outrigger Canoe Inc., $10,000.

For legislative intent, Attao pointed out, these monies that go to the NGOs can only be used within the Third Senatorial District, or Saipan and Northern Islands.

He said the funds should not be used or shared with other senatorial districts as provided by the Office of the Attorney General's opinion.

Rep. Christina E. Sablan (D-Saipan) offered technical amendment to the bill.

Under the bill, the expenditure authority for the funds allocated under Section 2 of this Act shall be responsible for reporting all expenses to the Finance secretary by the end of the calendar year 2023.

Entities that fail to provide all expenses that were given funds under this appropriation shall not be able to avail to any future funds appropriated by the SNILD.

SNILD members favored the substitute bill and subsequently passed the legislation.

In April 2022, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres line-item vetoed House Local Bill 22-27, S1, D1, that proposed to appropriate $430,000 in unobligated funds to the Office of the Saipan Mayor and for the ongoing Kagman Watershed Project.

Torres strongly advised SNILD that the $350,000 of the $430,000 be appropriated instead to support the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance office so that the CNMI may continue to invest in the future of its students.

In May 2022, then-acting governor Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) vetoed similar legislation, House Local Bill 22-31, authored by Rep. Corina L. Magofna (Ind-Saipan), that would appropriate $430,000 in unobligated funds to the Mayor of Saipan for operations and for the Kagman Watershed Project. Hofschneider reiterated Torres' recommendation in vetoing the bill.

With respect to Kagman Watershed Project, the president said correlating departments and agencies have assured that this project will be prioritized and provided with adequate and related federal funding assistance in the coming months.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055•SAIPAN•MP•96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
WEBSITE: WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES
BENJAMIN TAISACAN MANGLONA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
AIRCRAFT PARKING APRON REHABILITATION
AIP 3-69-0003-34/XX

The Commonwealth Ports Authority's (CPA) is a public corporation and autonomous agency of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). In accordance with its Procurement Rules and Regulations, CPA hereby seeks the services of qualified consulting firms to provide Construction Management Services for the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport Aircraft Parking Apron Rehabilitation Project, AIP 3-69-0003-34/XX.

The project is being funded by U.S. Federal Aviation Administration in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations, Section 40-50-202, Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Administration Office, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. No fee is required for obtaining the RFQ package. Electronic copies may be made available upon written request to Ms. Wendi Prater at wprater@cnmiports.com or Ms. Sheri Llagas at receptionist@cnmiports.com.

Questions regarding this request for qualification statements must be submitted in writing to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager, via email to wprater@cnmiports.com or hand delivered to the CPA Administration Office by no later than 5:00 p.m. CHST, local time, Friday, December 16, 2022.

The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria available in the RFQ package.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **5:00 p.m. CHST, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2022**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director
Date: November 22, 2022

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp

Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator

Richard V.Salas
Director, DCRM

NOTICE OF CRM PUBLIC HEARING

USA FANTER CORPORATION LIMITED
USA FANTER KANNAT TABLA
QUARRY & BATCHING PLANT FACILITY

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the following project:

CRM Major Siting Application No. CRM-MS2022-0003 (formerly SMS-2012-X-061-A1) – The USA Fanter Corporation Limited is proposing to construct a cement batching plant, hollow block manufacturing facility, and to extend the use and operation of its quarry operation on public lands identified as Lot Nos. 040 H 12 and 040 H 13 in Kannat Tabla, Saipan. USA Fanter Corporation, Ltd., has leased the two properties from the Department of Public Lands (DPL) under a Temporary Lease Agreement, No. 22-001S for five (5) years.

The public hearing for this project is scheduled on **Thursday, January 5, 2023, at 5:00PM, at the DCRM Learning Center 3rd Floor, Suite 301, Gualo Rai Center, Chalan Pale Arnold Road in Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan.**

To maintain the health and safety of all, virtual public participation is highly encouraged via video conferencing through Zoom link: https://zoom.us/j *(Meeting ID: 6706648315)*. Our Zoom meeting access code may change, please call the DCRM Permitting Office at (670) 664-8300 for connection assistance at least one-day prior to the public hearing date.

If you are unable to attend, written comments can be submitted to the DCRM Permitting Office, Suite 305, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mailed to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, P.O. Box 501304, or sent by fax at 664-8315, or by email at ssablan@dcrm.gov.mp. The project file is open for review and comments during regular business hours from 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application records and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed project. Please contact Ms. Sam Sablan at the DCRM Permitting Office at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the USA Fanter Kannat Table Quarry Operations and Batching Plant Facility Project.

/s/ Richard V. Salas
Director
Division of Coastal Resources Management

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL AND
STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL
P.O. BOX 501521, SAIPAN, MP 95950
TEL: (670) 322-6537/8 • FAX: (670) 322-6548 • E-MAIL: nmidir@ovrgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the public is advised that the State Rehabilitation Council will hold its FY 2023 First General Membership Meeting on Tuesday, December 20, 2022, from 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. at the LaoLao Bay Golf Resort, Caladium Hall

Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda of December 20, 2022
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes of FY 2022 SRC & SILC Fourth General Membership Joint Meeting on September 23, 2022
V. Reports
a. SRC Chairperson
b. OVR Director
VI. Employer Forum
VII. Old Business
a. 2022 NDEAM Updates
b. 2022 Joint Annual Report
c. Orientation and Training
VIII. New Business
a. Review of FY 2022 Membership Attendance
b. Conference and Training
IX. Miscellaneous
X. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters are asked to call Jemmie Agulto at 322-6537(voice) or email at jemmie@ovrgov.net for necessary arrangements no later than Monday, December 19, 2022, at 3:30 p.m.

/s/ **Preston O. Basa**
SRC Chairperson

Publication of this notice is paid for by federal funds made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Rehabilitation Services Administration.

GUANGDONG HARDWARE
Never satisfied until you are
NEW ARRIVAL
G24 & G26 G.I. ROOFING TIN SECURITY DOOR, G.I. PIPES, G.I. SQUARE TUBE, G.I. C CHANNEL & Z CHANNEL, 2x4 RECTANGULAR TUBE, SHORING JACK, OFFICE TABLE AND CHAIR, US MADE WATER HEATER, TEMPERED GLASS ALUMINUM SLIDING WINDOW.
NEW ARRIVAL
Furniture

Make a Difference for Your House!

NEW ARRIVALS!
CARPOLY PAINT
It's the suitable paint for the island climate.
Make your paint last for a long time!

1 FREE T-shirt with one time purchase of two buckets of
CARPOLY
Professional Paint Solution Provider
First Come First Served, While Stocks Last
LED LIGHTS
• Less money, 50% energy saving!
• More stable, bright, and fashionable!
• More longer and environmental protection!
Your Smart Choice!
G60 Rebar is Available Now!
CHEAPEST DEALER OF MAJOR CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL ON ISLAND!
P.O. BOX 501640, SAIPAN, MP 96950
TEL: (670) 288-2288/2289/6688
FAX: 288-4488
E-mail:guangdong_hardware@163.com
BUSINESS HOURS:
Monday to Saturday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

USCIS announces trial for updates to the naturalization test

WASHINGTON—The Department of Homeland Security published yesterday a notice in the *Federal Register* announcing that U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services plans to conduct a trial for updates to the current naturalization test.

The naturalization test has four components: reading, writing, civics, and ability to speak English. The reading and writing portions of the naturalization test are standard. The purposes of the trial are to test a civics component with updated format and content and a newly developed English-speaking component that could become standard.

President Joe Biden's Executive Order 14012, "Restoring Faith in Our Legal Immigration Systems and Strengthening Integration and Inclusion Efforts for New Americans," includes a directive to review the naturalization process. In response, USCIS subject matter experts reviewed the naturalization test and recommended redesigning the speaking and civics test to improve testing standards. The proposed revisions are consistent with the feedback that USCIS has received from multiple external stakeholder groups.

"The naturalization test is a key step in becoming a U.S. citizen," said USCIS Director Ur M. Jaddou. "We welcome input from —and the participation of—stakeholders who are familiar with this important process, as we continue to improve and update our naturalization test, ensuring that it is consistent with industry testing standards."

The updates to the naturalization test that will be assessed during this trial are based on feedback from stakeholders about the standardization and structure of the naturalization test. USCIS will conduct the trial with the help of volunteer community-based organizations who work with immigrant English language learners and lawful permanent residents preparing for naturalization. USCIS will seek approximately 1,500 individuals enrolled in adult education classes to take the trial test. The agency may use the results of the trial to support changes to the naturalization test.

USCIS will conduct national engagements for interested CBOs and will then publish a request for volunteer CBOs on the USCIS Citizenship Resource Center. The trial is tentatively scheduled for a five-month period in 2023.

USCIS welcomes all interested parties to submit written data, views, comments, and arguments on all aspects of this trial and test. Comments may be emailed to natzredesign22@uscis.dhs.gov. ***(USCIS)***

Aldan says Perez will be a great asset to the CUC board

Tinian and Aguiguan Mayor Edwin P. Aldan asked the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations to confirm Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' appointment of his chief of staff, Allen Perez, to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board of directors.

Speaking at the Senate EAGI Committee's confirmation hearing, Aldan said that Perez, who is a former CUC board member, is a proactive worker with extensive experience in public service and private sector.

"I'm confident that Mr. Perez will be a great asset in his new role if confirmed by this committee," said the mayor, citing the appointee's lengthy professional background and work experience.

As chief of staff for his administration, Aldan said that Perez is tasked with handling the overall operation and finances of the municipality and is heavily involved in many of their current and ongoing projects that are locally and federally funded.

He said that Perez's professional experience will allow him to be an asset to the CUC board, contributing valuable ideas and insights to furthering the board's goal, mission, and projects in addressing CUC's most critical issues with implementing sustainable power sources and services that will benefit the CNMI.

Perez said he served on the CUC board nearly 20 years ago during a time of rising fuel prices, cashflow problems and the introduction of the fuel service charge.

"Needless to say that I am familiar with working in an environment riddled with controversial and contentious issues," he said.

Perez said that, as a former CUC board member, he is already familiar with many of the critical issues facing CUC today.

CUC board director Donald Browne testified in support of Perez's confirmation. No one opposed his confirmation.

Last Nov. 28, Torres nominated Perez to the CUC board representing the Second Senatorial District, or Tinian and Aguiguan. If confirmed, Perez will serve a four-year term. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

PROPERTY FOR SALE
LOT NO. 002 G 300
NOTICE OF AUCTION & SALE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the undersigned counsel, Attorney Robert T. Torres (the auctioneer or his designee), for and on behalf of the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund, will sell at auction, to the highest bidder, on **December 20, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.,** at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Alageta Road, Kagman III, Saipan Municipality, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described further as follows:

Lot No. 002 G 300, containing an area of 929 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 002 G 07, the original of which was recorded on May 14, 1990, as Document No. 90-1904 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan, CNMI.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. **Rights and Duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties conducting the auction sale:
   a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before the sale or before a bid for such property is accepted;
   b) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever there; and
   c) to reject any and all bids.

2. **Minimum Bid.** The minimum bid for the sale of Lot No. 002 G 300 is **Ninety Thousand Dollars and 00/100 (US $90,000.00).** All bids shall be in writing and constitute a formal offer from each bidder. Bids may be submitted in advance for said property. Bids may be submitted in advance in writing for the foregoing property. The minimum bid shall be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be submitted in person (at the auction), via email, or in writing by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, 5962 Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 500730, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749; Email: robert.torres@rttlawgroup.com **by 8:00 a.m., Chamorro Standard Time on the auction date.** Any person who submits his/her bid shall provide a copy of his/her valid Identification Card (valid CNMI Driver's License or Passport). A written bid shall include the bidder's signature, with his/her telephone number, mailing address, and any other contact information. The winning bidder shall be the person to whom the property is confirmed if the bid is accepted. The CNMI Retirement Fund assumes no liability for any errors or omissions as to a bidder's name or identification if that information is not correctly indicated on the bid form. **Please contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for a bid form.**

3. **Deposit and Payment.** A non-refundable guarantee deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) days of the auction sale by the winning bidder, no later than 4:00 pm on that date, by payment to the Law Office of Robert T. Torres. The remaining balance shall be due within ten (10) calendar days from the auction sale. If the tenth calendar day falls on a weekend then the balance shall be due that Monday after the tenth calendar day. All payments shall be made by cash, money order, or cashier's check. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the bidder's rights, title, and interest in the money shall revert to the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund.

4. **Change of Terms.** Auctioneer and the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund reserve the right to change any of the terms conducted and enforcement of sale by the announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by the constructive notice.

5. **Quitclaim Deed to Winning Bidder:** All bidders are notified that the NMI Retirement Funds, the Judgment – Creditors, shall issue a Quitclaim Deed to the Winning Bidder.

6. **Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are informed and cautioned to inspect the title and property including performing any title research, property inspection, boundary inspection, easement research, and encroachment research on the subject property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold **"AS IS"** and without warranties including but not limited to habitability or fitness for purpose. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer. A copy of the appraisal report and other documents pertaining to the property to be sold at auction are available upon request for review in advance of the auction date.

DATED this 3rd day of December 2022.

/s/_____
Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer
for NMI Retirement Fund

WEATHER ADVISORIES

High surf advisory and rip current until Sunday

A high surf advisory remains in effect until 6pm Sunday. There is also a high risk of rip currents through Sunday afternoon.

Large breaking waves of 7 to 9 feet are expected in north facing reefs of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. Dangerous rip currents are expected in the north and east facing reefs of the Marianas.

The high surf advisory is expected to last through 6pm Sunday, while the high rip current risk is seen to last through Sunday afternoon.

These conditions will create dangerous swimming and surfing conditions and localized beach erosion. Rip currents can sweep even the best swimmers away from shore into deeper water. Inexperienced swimmers should remain out of the water due to dangerous surf conditions.

The public is urged to stay out of the water along reef lines. If caught in a rip current, relax and float. Don't swim against the current. If able, swim in a direction following the shoreline. If unable to escape, face the shore and call or wave for help. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Wind advisory until tomorrow

A wind advisory remains in effect until 7pm tomorrow, Saturday.

Winds will be increasing to 20 to 30 miles per hour and gusting to 35 mph by today, Friday on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota and is expected to last until 7pm Saturday.

Gusty winds could blow around unsecured objects. Tree limbs could be blown down and a few power outages may result.

A wind advisory means that winds of 30 mph are expected. Winds this strong can make driving difficult, especially for high profile vehicles. Use extra caution when driving. Secure outdoor objects. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Small craft advisory until Sunday

A small craft advisory is in effect on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota coastal waters until 6pm Sunday.

East winds 15 to 25 knots, with gusts of up to 30 knots and seas 8 to 11 feet are expected in Marianas coastal waters through 6pm Sunday. Conditions will be hazardous to small craft.

A small craft advisory means that wind speeds of 21 to 33 knots are expected to produce wave conditions hazardous to small craft. Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, should avoid boating in hazardous conditions. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

A REPORT ON BOOSTing OUR ECONOMY

AMOUNTS REQUESTED THROUGHOUT SAIPAN, TINIAN, AND ROTA

SMALL BUSINESS
Total Number of Applications

SAIPAN	1425 APPLICANTS	$264,553,102.78	AMOUNT REQUESTED
TINIAN	204 APPLICANTS	$21,671,676.65	AMOUNT REQUESTED
ROTA	100 APPLICANTS	$11,522,263.08	AMOUNT REQUESTED

NON PROFITS
Total Number of Applications

SAIPAN	62 APPLICANTS	$29,029,913.32	AMOUNT REQUESTED
TINIAN	4 APPLICANTS	$237,150.00	AMOUNT REQUESTED
ROTA	2 APPLICANTS	$145,213.00	AMOUNT REQUESTED

FFR
(Fisher, Farmer, Rancher)
Total Number of Applications

SAIPAN	1761 APPLICANTS	$880,500.00	AMOUNT REQUESTED
TINIAN	258 APPLICANTS	$129,000.00	AMOUNT REQUESTED
ROTA	411 APPLICANTS	$205,500.00	AMOUNT REQUESTED

OVERALL TOTAL BOOST APPLICATIONS

4227 APPLICANTS	$328,374,318.83 AMOUNT REQUESTED

STATISTICS AS OF DEC. 1, 2022

APPLICATIONS CONTINUE TO BE REVIEWED. NO APPLICATIONS HAVE BEEN DENIED. THE BOOST PROGRAM IS MADE POSSIBLE BY GOVERNOR RALPH DLG. TORRES AND IS SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.

BOOST

A REPORT ON BOOSTing OUR ECONOMY

TOTAL AMOUNTS AWARDED (SMALL BUSINESS) THROUGHOUT SAIPAN, TINIAN, AND ROTA

241 SMALL BUSINESSES HAVE BEEN AWARDED WITHIN THE CNMI

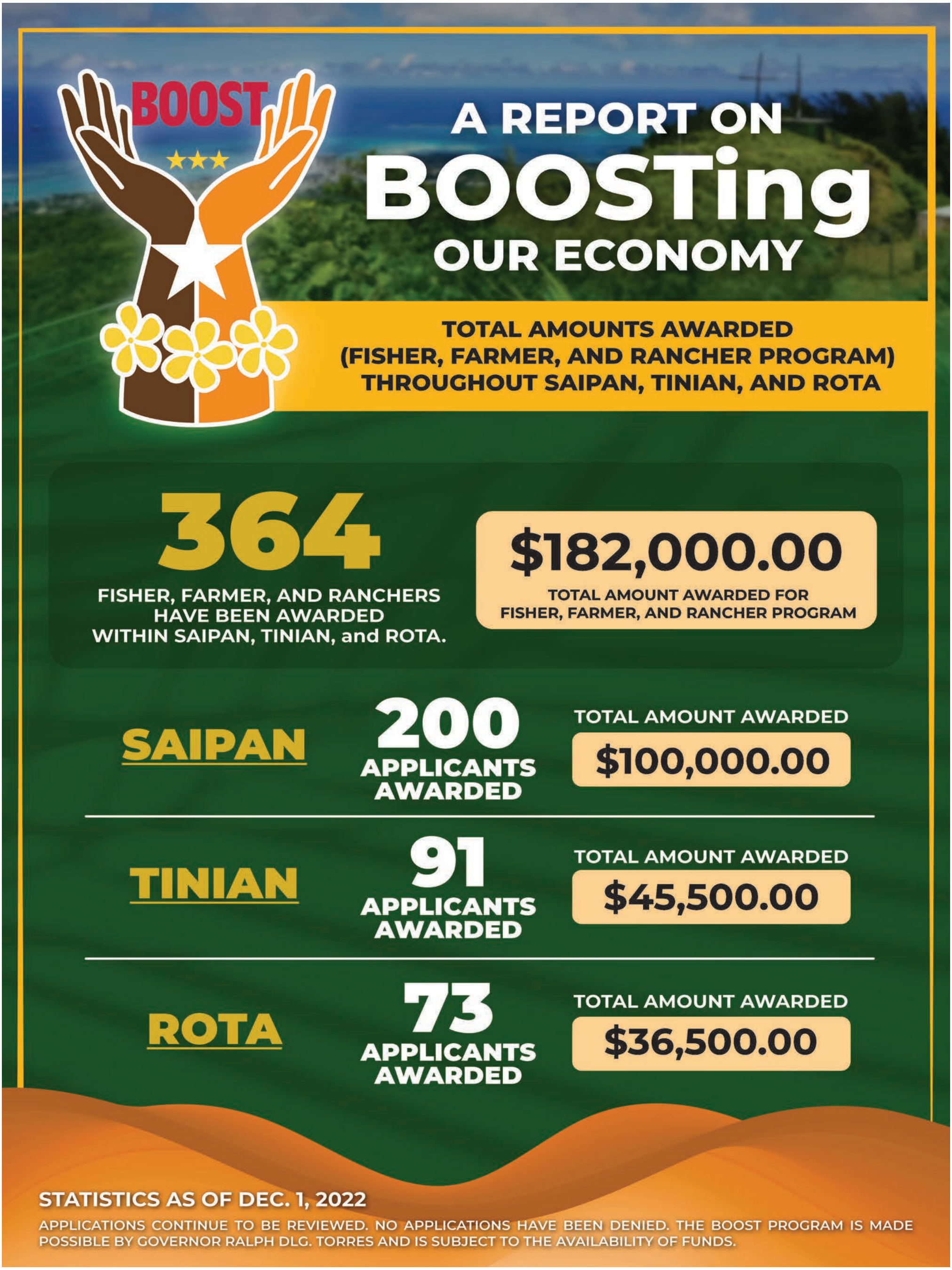
$10,490,000 AMOUNT AWARDED

AVERAGE AWARD FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

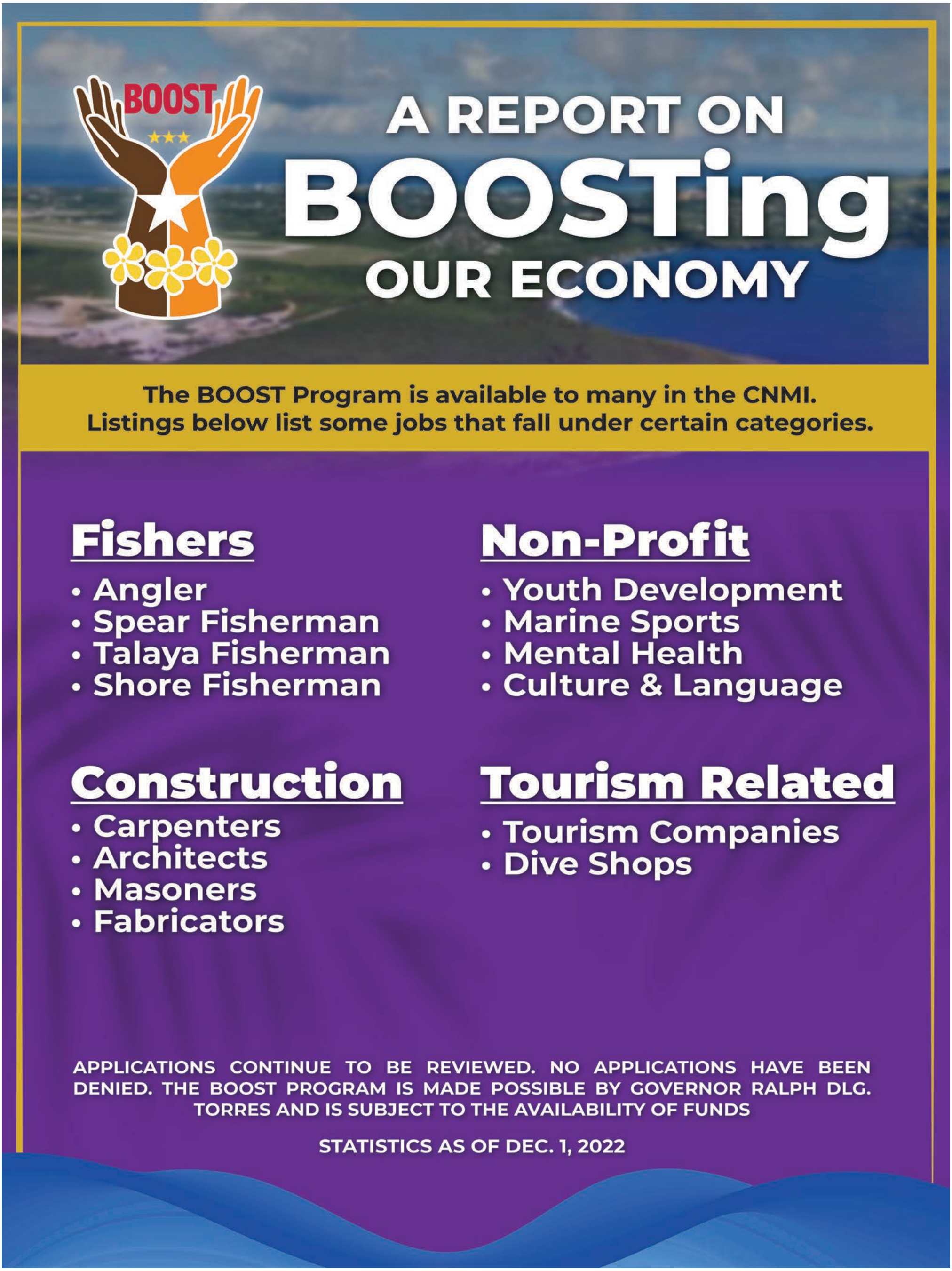
$40,000

STATISTICS AS OF DEC. 1, 2022

APPLICATIONS CONTINUE TO BE REVIEWED. NO APPLICATIONS HAVE BEEN DENIED. THE BOOST PROGRAM IS MADE POSSIBLE BY GOVERNOR RALPH DLG. TORRES AND IS SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.


BOOST
A REPORT ON
BOOSTing
OUR ECONOMY
TOTAL AMOUNTS AWARDED
(FISHER, FARMER, AND RANCHER PROGRAM)
THROUGHOUT SAIPAN, TINIAN, AND ROTA
364
FISHER, FARMER, AND RANCHERS
HAVE BEEN AWARDED
WITHIN SAIPAN, TINIAN, and ROTA.
$182,000.00
TOTAL AMOUNT AWARDED FOR
FISHER, FARMER, AND RANCHER PROGRAM
SAIPAN
200
APPLICANTS
AWARDED
TOTAL AMOUNT AWARDED
$100,000.00
TINIAN
91
APPLICANTS
AWARDED
TOTAL AMOUNT AWARDED
$45,500.00
ROTA
73
APPLICANTS
AWARDED
TOTAL AMOUNT AWARDED
$36,500.00
STATISTICS AS OF DEC. 1, 2022
APPLICATIONS CONTINUE TO BE REVIEWED. NO APPLICATIONS HAVE BEEN DENIED. THE BOOST PROGRAM IS MADE POSSIBLE BY GOVERNOR RALPH DLG. TORRES AND IS SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.

BOOST
A REPORT ON
BOOSTing
OUR ECONOMY
The BOOST Program is available to many in the CNMI.
This also includes many business categories.
BUSINESS CATEGORIES
• Apartment rentals
• Auto Rental
• Auto Repair
• B & B
• Bakeries
• Boat Charter
• Cafés
• Clothing Stores
• Construction
• Home Rental
• Hotels
• Restaurants
• Retail General Merchandise
• Wholesales
APPLICATIONS CONTINUE TO BE REVIEWED. NO APPLICATIONS HAVE BEEN DENIED. THE BOOST PROGRAM IS MADE POSSIBLE BY GOVERNOR RALPH DLG. TORRES AND IS SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS
STATISTICS AS OF DEC. 1, 2022


BOOST
A REPORT ON
BOOSTing
OUR ECONOMY
The BOOST Program is available to many in the CNMI.
Listings below list some jobs that fall under certain categories.
Fishers
• Angler
• Spear Fisherman
• Talaya Fisherman
• Shore Fisherman
Non-Profit
• Youth Development
• Marine Sports
• Mental Health
• Culture & Language
Construction
• Carpenters
• Architects
• Masoners
• Fabricators
Tourism Related
• Tourism Companies
• Dive Shops
APPLICATIONS CONTINUE TO BE REVIEWED. NO APPLICATIONS HAVE BEEN DENIED. THE BOOST PROGRAM IS MADE POSSIBLE BY GOVERNOR RALPH DLG. TORRES AND IS SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS
STATISTICS AS OF DEC. 1, 2022

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXII, Issue No. 250
Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER
The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Fusion energy is starting to look real

Is the age of nuclear fusion finally dawning?

After many decades of not-so-productive research, scientists have been making serious progress toward an energy revolution. On Monday came news of the latest milestone: According to press reports, scientists at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California recently induced a fusion reaction that produced a net energy gain—that is, it generated more power than it consumed.

Although its practical consequences may be limited, it was a major symbolic and scientific achievement. "Net gain" has been the elusive lodestar of fusion research since the 1950s. Realizing it should give a major boost to global research efforts, provide crucial data for other scientists to study, validate the push for more government investment, and offer a tantalizing glimpse of fusion's real-world possibilities.

It's no exaggeration to say that those could be revolutionary. A workable fusion reactor could produce effectively limitless energy, with no intermittency, no carbon emissions, no dangerous waste and nowhere near the material resources required by other renewable projects. President Joe Biden's goal of a net-zero economy would start to look more plausible; humanity's longer-term climate and energy challenges would seem much more manageable. That's to say nothing of the other scientific and technological advances fusion could one day unlock.

Some skepticism is still warranted. Few technologies have been hyped quite so relentlessly over the years, and the remaining challenges to building a viable commercial reactor—technical and economic—are immense. Many years of expensive research and problem-solving lie ahead, with no guarantee of success. Even so, the stars are aligning for progress, and potentially for more breakthroughs.

One reason for optimism is that the federal government has gotten serious about fusion. In March, the White House announced a long-term strategy to accelerate commercial fusion efforts. Congress recently directed a record $713 million for fusion research and construction, along with some $50 million for a major public-private partnership. Fusion projects will also soon benefit from hundreds of millions in Inflation Reduction Act funds. All told, this is the kind of focused commitment that has been long overdue.

Private enterprise is also entering the game on a significant scale. So far, investors have dedicated nearly $5 billion to about 35 fusion startups, according to the industry's trade group, with funding roughly doubling since last year. Several of these companies have the backing of Silicon Valley luminaries, including General Fusion Inc. (Jeff Bezos), Commonwealth Fusion Systems (Bill Gates), and Helion Energy Inc. (Peter Thiel). Some are already breaking ground on new facilities. Bloomberg Intelligence estimates that the industry could one day command a market valuation of $40 trillion.

For now, it's enough for policymakers to express guarded enthusiasm, and to lay the groundwork for future progress. As fusion science advances, global cooperation will be essential. Funding for research, educating a skilled workforce, and building up infrastructure should be redoubled. Above all, governments must avoid red tape—of the kind that has need-

See FUSION on Next Page

Wild inflation? Not anymore. A closer look shows we're already approaching normal

By MARK WEISBROT
Los Angeles Times

Mark Weisbrot is co-director of the Center for Economic and Policy Research in Washington and the author of Failed: What the 'Experts' Got Wrong About the Global Economy.

Do Americans understand what is happening with inflation in this country? This is an important question, because the public's perception can influence national policy and political choices. Before the midterm elections one month ago, 87% of likely voters told pollsters that inflation was extremely or very important in deciding their vote.

Let's take a simple example of what most Americans see most in the news, and compare this with the data that economists, and journalists who cover the U.S. economy, are looking at.

This week our government released the November data for the Consumer Price Index, and the headline number was 7.1%; which was down from 7.7% last month, but still a very high rate of inflation for the United States. The phrase, "highest levels since the early 1980s" has accompanied much of the reporting for the last few months.

But these numbers are, in some very important ways, out of date.

It's true that prices as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U) in November of this year were 7.1% higher than a year earlier.

But if we look at the five months that we have just experienced (July through November), the bigger news is really how much the rate of inflation has been coming down.

For these five months, annualized inflation has been just 2.5%. Just to be clear: That 2.5% is not the increase in prices over these five months (July through November). It's the increase in prices that we would have if this inflation over five months continued for a year.

By contrast, the annualized inflation of the five months prior to July (February through June) was 11.8%.

Although the Fed's target is 2% (the Fed uses a different measure of inflation than the CPI but pretty close to it), most economists would not be worried about inflation of 2.5%. In fact some of the world's most prominent economists would favor 3%, over 2%, as a target.

There is a long list of facts and issues known to economists that have led many of us to less alarmist views than those of the wider public, including some politicians. For starters: The spike in inflation over the past 18 months was primarily a result of external shocks: the war in Ukraine was a big one, especially for gasoline prices.

Gasoline prices have been an even bigger issue in California than in most of the country, because they are substantially higher in the state, where they have recently fallen from a record $6.49 per gallon in October to $4.61 this week.

Inflation was also driven higher by supply chain disruptions; and large shifts in demand because of the pandemic and then recovery.

There has been little evidence of any self-reinforcing mechanisms such as a wage-price spiral (where prices cause workers to demand higher wages, further driving up prices) or accelerating changes in the expectations of consumers or investors.

The data also show that, despite the hardships inflation has caused for many people, tens of millions of Americans are economically better off than they were before the change of government two years ago. This is especially true for people who gained employment from the record 10 million jobs that have been created since then. Wages for lower-paid workers rose faster than inflation; workers in the hotel and restaurant sector (production and nonsupervisory) saw their wages rise by 3.8% more than inflation since the pandemic began.

And importantly, over the past five months, wages for all production and non-supervisory workers have risen at a 4.1% annualized rate.

The misunderstanding of inflation and the economy distorts American politics and can influence not only elections but also the most important economic policy decisions that our government makes. The Federal Reserve itself has caused most of the U.S. recessions since World War II by raising interest rates, and it may well be on track to do that again in the coming months, potentially throwing millions of people out of work. This would also very likely have serious political consequences.

Such a tragic mistake would be much less likely if the public – including members of Congress and other decision-makers – had a better understanding of the economic reality of the current episode of inflation, as well as the available choices and consequences. The way inflation is looking these past five months, the Fed should take a break from its interest rate hikes before, rather than after, it causes the next recession. That would be a much better choice than the course it is on.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Why, Catholic?

MY GLASS CUP

By JIM RAYPHAND
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jim Rayphand is a former executive director of the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc. and has recently ventured into a startup fishing business.

My latest in a lifetime of personal grievances against the Catholic institution and many of its parishioners will go unspoken this time because I am complicit in that which ails me about the church at present and fully aware how with a point of my finger three more point back at me. I am not a good Catholic; in fact, despite many years spent praying with child-like innocence and unwavering devotion to Catholic rituals in countless pews of various Catholic churches, I by the church's own standards am not a Catholic at all. For various reasons (none of which were ever, until recently, a lack of desire), I have never been allowed to receive any of the Catholic sacraments including baptism—something for which I (oddly) still harbor a deep sense of shame and embarrassment to admit. As such, to my limited understanding, Catholic doctrine purports that I am automatically doomed to purgatory (or limbo) after death—a prospect I feared, cried about, and silently begged forgiveness for many years as an impressionable young child of faith.

Therein lies my original sin, root of my guilty conscience and general disappointment with the Catholic churches of my upbringing. Why, Catholic, hast thou forsaken me?

To be clear, despite my personal (perhaps self-pitying) grievances and in spite of the church's atrocious history of (among other things) killing people in the name of God or the general off-putting nature of pomp and circumstance in and around Catholic idols and an autocratic Vatican, I remain convinced that Catholicism, like most other Christian religions (at least throughout our islands), has, without a doubt, been a force for good. Put another way, island life as it was for me in the outer islands of Chuuk in the '70s and '80s would have been far more chaotic, violent, and generally unpleasant without the sense of order brought about only through a kind of discipline and quiet reverence a majority of islanders hold for the church. In memoriam: Our resident priest, Fr. Rively, who lived on our home island of Lukunor during my childhood, was revered and lived a kind of untouchable, almost saintly status—somewhere between fear, love, and respect. I remember him fondly, if for nothing else, as an oddity or an anomaly in both demeanor and appearance (an interesting subject for a future article perhaps).

■■■

My earliest memories of what might be best described as the beginnings of an indoctrination into the Catholic church consist of being lathered (from head to toe) with coconut oil, dressed in home-sewn clothes and marched (with my cousins) to church every Sunday. I learned quickly that my best behavior in and around the church drew a different level of praise and acknowledgement from even the most stern of adults in our family. Thus, at the tender age of about 7 or 8 years old, I embarked on a deep desire and initial quest to be the best Catholic I could be. During those days I would be told and regularly reminded in no uncertain terms that attending any other church was an affront to God. I very clearly remember too being told that the actual definition of protestant (as explained to me in Mortlockese) was "to stand against God."

Catechism classes came along and I quickly and convincingly rose through the ranks, reciting through rote (an important consideration) memory all of the requisite prayers and got deemed ready for communion even before many of the much older kids than I. Alas, the issue of my baptism (or rather lack thereof) and uncertainty about whether or not my parents would approve (they didn't live with us at the time and phone calls or emails were not a thing) came into question. So the day of my holy communion was put on hold and I would spend the next several years watching most, if not all, of my cousins and other friends being celebrated as they were welcomed into the Catholic faith with many of them moving up to become altar servers (only for boys in those days). Meanwhile I slowly and subtly became a kind of unspoken outcast among my peers within the church that I loved and attended religiously—by definition my own personal purgatory (or limbo) here on Earth. I continued to faithfully attend our Catholic church daily in hopes perhaps of being recognized as worthy, but that day never came and at some point, I began to wander. I began to double up on church, joining our much smaller Protestant services (usually after Catholic Mass every Sunday). Truth be told, my Protestant family and their church services were far more relatable, less uptight if you will, and much more interactive. In the years thereafter I would attend various private schools with religious underpinnings, which included a year or two in a Seventh Day Adventist school, another year or two in a Pentecostal school, four years of high school at an Episcopalian-based school and my college years at a private Presbyterian-based school. Coincidentally, the most highly sought-after private school in Chuuk (and arguably in Micronesia at the time), Xavier High School, which is a Catholic Jesuit school, wouldn't accept me either—okay, I failed the entrance exam, but that it was another Catholic stiff-arm did not escape me.

■■■

I have long given up trying to gain favor with Catholicism; in fact, a few of my closest friends who remain devout might attest that I have grown cynical and can at times be insensitive (my late grandmother and others would likely say, sacrilegious) in my remarks about the church—forgive me, Father, for I have sinned.

Ultimately, I have come to accept that God has a plan for me (whatever that may be) and, in spite of my personal misgivings with the religion, that the Catholic faith (not necessarily the religion, much less every church) is an essential force for good in what it teaches—a force of spiritual and moral values that the faith carries with it.

I cannot claim to be a Catholic, but I hold faithfully to the notion of "*Caritas in Veritate*"—loosely translated, "Love or Charity for Truth"—inscribed by Pope Benedict the XVI as being a Catholic promise to "assist the world to come out of confusion" with and through "*Caritas*," more literally translated as "the spiritual aspect of love." For emphasis *caritas* means "love," not simple charity, which has largely lost its original meaning and is now understood mainly as financial or material generosity to people in need.

Archbishop Abuja-John Olorunfemi Onaiyekan makes the point that the "church is made up of saints and sinners" to the point perhaps that the church should be a refuge for sinners and that the shame associated with sin is in fact "a grace" preparing us for God's forgiveness.

As someone unable to receive the "Sacrament of Penance, Reconciliation or Confession" on a train bound for nowhere, perhaps the best that I can hope for is to die in my sleep on a gamble that God hates the sin, but loves the sinner. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

No kitten: Giving animals as gifts is a bad idea

By MELISSA RAE SANGER
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals

Melissa Rae Sanger is a staff writer for the PETA Foundation, 501 Front St., Norfolk, VA 23510; www.PETA.org.

Earlier this year, we opened our hearts to a tiny black kitten with a white stripe down her back. She had been abandoned outside in the cold and was covered in fleas and fighting a nasty infection. After fostering her for a time, we decided to make her a permanent member of our family.

Little Rue is now about 3 months old, a glorious mixture of sweet and spicy with a touch of mischief. She gets into everything and seems to gravitate toward potential hazards—like our Christmas tree. It stands unadorned in the family room, waiting for lights and ornaments. We haven't decorated it yet because Rue sees it as her personal jungle gym. I'm hopeful that she'll soon grow bored of it.

I'm glad that Rue had some time to get used to her new home and that we had time to get used to caring for her before the busy holiday season. With all the enticements, excitement and expenses that the holidays bring, taking on the responsibility of caring for an animal can be overwhelming for families. For animals, being given as "gifts" or bought on a whim can be disastrous.

Among other things, Rue needed a new breakaway collar, food, vaccines and a spay surgery. Considering how costly Christmas is, I'm glad we didn't have to pay for all of these during the holidays. According to Forbes, the average cost of caring for a cat in the U.S. is $900 annually. The cost for a dog averages $1,480 per year—and that's just for basic, bare minimum care. An illness, a trip to the emergency veterinarian or another unexpected expense can quickly set guardians back thousands of dollars.

Holiday visitors, travel and packed schedules also make it harder for animals to adjust to a new home—and for their guardians to give them the attention and patient guidance they need. Although we'll have more guests than usual over the next month, I'm confident that Rue is now comfortable enough in her surroundings to do just fine. And we're familiar enough with her care routine—playing with her, feeding her, refilling her bowl with clean water, scooping the litter box, grooming her and cuddling her—that we'll stick with it no matter how busy the holidays get.

Many animals given as gifts won't be loved and cared for like Rue. They'll be condemned to a miserable existence—imprisoned in a crate all day or chained outdoors. Or they'll join the countless others who end up in animal shelters or abandoned on the side of the road to freeze or starve to death after an unprepared recipient discovers that caring for them is an unwanted responsibility.

Please, never give a living, feeling being to anyone as a "gift." And if you're emotionally and financially able to care for an animal family member for a lifetime (remember, many animals live well into their teens), make their introduction to your home a happy and successful one by waiting until after the hectic holidays are over.

You can still create a Christmas memory by gathering presents for your future family member, such as a soft bed, dishes, toys and treats galore, a collar, food and a litter box or leash. Wrap them up with a big red bow and leave them under the tree. You can even leave a note for the rest of the family explaining that you'll be adopting an animal companion from the shelter after things quiet down.

As for us, Christmas will look a bit different this year: We won't have any fragile ornaments on the tree (if we decorate it at all), we'll be leaving ribbons off packages (too tempting and dangerous for a kitten) and we'll need to be a bit more cautious with our spending. But these are all small sacrifices for having Rue spend Christmas (and every holiday to come) off the streets, safe and warm at home.

FUSION

From Page 12

lessly held up traditional fission projects—and prevent parochial interests from impeding innovation.

Unlocking the power of the stars has never been an easy goal. But few scientific endeavors could have a greater potential payoff. Keep going.

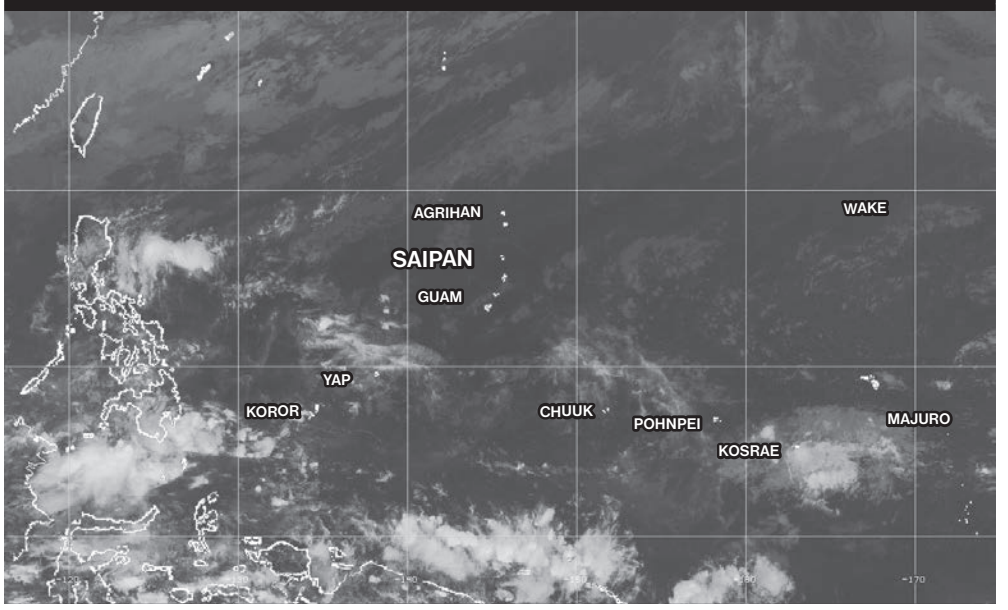
©2022 Bloomberg L.P.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Isolated showers. Mostly sunny	Isolated showers. Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny
87º / 76º	88º / 76º	88º / 76º	88º / 76º	88º / 76º

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 10:24 AM,THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows Kosrae socked in with clouds and showers late this morning. Updated the forecast to increase clouds and showers for the rest of today. December is one of Kosrae`s wettest months of the year so not too surprising to see a showery pattern linger overhead. Majuro`s forecast was updated to reduce showers as satellite and latest model guidance shows fair weather cumulus and limited shower activity.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Scattered Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	85° / 76°
Yap	Mostly Sunny	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 81°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	88° / 79°
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	86° / 80°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Cloudy	75° / 65°
Beijing	Sunny	31° / 9°
Hong Kong	Rain	63° / 54°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	82° / 69°
London	Mostly Sunny	31° / 22°
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	64° / 47°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90° / 77°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	67° / 49°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	81° / 70°
New York	Rain	43° / 42°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	53° / 40°
Paris	Mostly Sunny	37° / 25°
Busan	Cloudy	43° / 31°
Rome	Rain	62° / 53°
Salem	Sunny	57° / 35°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	54° / 39°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	27° / 13°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	55° / 39°
Washington, DC	Rain	48° / 41°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:35 AM	5:49 PM
Saturday	6:35 AM	5:49 PM
Sunday	6:36 AM	5:50 PM
Monday	6:36 AM	5:50 PM
Tuesday	6:37 AM	5:51 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	12:30 PM	-
Saturday	12:08 AM	1:09 PM	-
Sunday	12:58 AM	1:46 PM	-
Monday	1:47 AM	2:22 PM	-
Tuesday	2:37 AM	2:58 PM	-

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY	FEET	
6:48 AM	Low Tide	0.12
2:14 PM	High Tide	1.63
8:50 PM	Low Tide	0.81
-	-	-

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769.
E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2022

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:05AM	9:45AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	6:00AM	7:45AM	Daily
UA193	7:55PM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	8:00PM	9:50PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:50AM	9:50PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau
OZ624/701	3:40PM	10:35AM+1	3,6 via Incheon

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

OZ624	3:40PM	7:40PM	3, 6
TW308	4:30PM	8:20PM	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	4:35PM	8:25PM	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

BX621	3:10PM	6:30PM	3, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:46AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	2:00AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:05PM	3:55AM+1	Daily
UA184	10:55PM	4:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:40PM	6:30AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA184	12:40AM	6:30AM	3, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA189/174	12:40AM	8:46AM+1	3, 6 via Guam
UA184/174	10:55PM	8:46AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:40PM	8:46AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
OZ704/623	11:50PM	2:40PM+1	2, 5 via Incheon

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ623	9:00AM	2:40PM	3, 6
TW307	10:00AM	3:30PM	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3406	10:10AM	3:30PM	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

BX622	8:00AM	1:10PM	3, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

MARIANAS SOUTHERN AIRWAYS

INITIAL DAILY FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 18, 2022

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
7:00 A.M.	7:15 A.M.	(Except Sundays)
9:50 A.M.	10:05 A.M.	
4:00 P.M.	4:15 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
7:35 A.M.	7:50 A.M.	(Except Sundays)
10:25 A.M.	10:40 A.M.	
4:35 P.M.	4:50 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
8:10 A.M.	8:40 A.M.	
1:45 P.M.	2:15 P.M.	

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
9:00 A.M.	9:30 A.M.	
2:35 P.M.	3:05 P.M.	

SAIPAN TO GUAM

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
11:10 A.M.	12:00 P.M.	
5:15 P.M.	6:05 P.M.	

GUAM TO SAIPAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
12:30 P.M.	1:20 P.M.	
6:40 P.M.	7:30 P.M.	

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

give LOVE on Christmas Day

DECEMBER 16, 2022

A SAIPAN TRIBUNE SPECIAL ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT

TOGETHER, LET US SHARE LOVE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON.

Favorites featured this Yuletide at Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan

By TERI M. FLORES
CORRESPONDENT

Good food and good company are what unforgettable memories are made of and this is exactly what the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan is looking to create for its guests this holiday season.

The recently opened Resort is continuing a legacy of being the place where local families and friends gather together for special occasions, most especially during the holiday season.

At The Terrace, which is the Resort's main dining facility, the culinary team has prepared a holiday spread that features international dishes alongside local favorites for its Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Brunch and Dinner feasts.

Building on its reputation of featuring the best marinated and smoked meat and seafood, The Terrace's Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Brunch and Dinner features local favorites that include a whole *kahlua* pig and smoked aged Certified Angus Beef tomahawk with truffle glaze. A wide variety of international dishes, including Mediterranean-inspired Spanish fried rice—"Paella Negra"—salmon in aspic, and for the kids, Pizza in Teglia will be some of the highlights of this Yuletide feast.

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day dinner buffets will be open from 5:30pm to 9:30pm. Dinner is $65 for adults and $25 for children between 4 to 11 years old. Christmas Day Brunch is open from 11am until 2pm and is $75 for adults and $25 for children between 4 to 11 years old.

For those who want to unwind while watching Saipan's famed sunsets, the Mari Bar is hosting a holiday season happy hour. Patrons get a 25% discount on all beverages, daily from 5pm to 7pm. This is available until Dec. 30.

Reservations can be made by calling (670) 234-6414 or visit the Resort's website at saipan.crowneplaza.com.

CROWNE PLAZA
AN IHG HOTEL
RESORT SAIPAN

MERRY CHRISTMAS

CELEBRATE THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR
AT CROWNE PLAZA RESORT SAIPAN

THE TERRACE

Christmas Eve Dinner Buffet
5:30 PM - 9:30 PM
Adult $65 / Child(ages 4-11) $25
Book by December 9 for
a 10% early bird discount

Christmas Brunch Buffet
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Adult $75 / Child(ages 4-11) $25
Book by December 9 for
a 20% early bird discount

Christmas Dinner Buffet
5:30 PM - 9:30 PM
Adult $65 / Child(ages 4-11) $25
Book by December 9 for
a 10% early bird discount

Scan QR code
for reservations at
The Terrace

mari bar

Holiday Season Happy Hour
Enjoy 25% off on all beverages
Daily from 5 - 7 PM at Mari Bar
Available until December 30, 2022

Scan QR code
for reservations at
Mari Bar

CROWNE PLAZA RESORT SAIPAN
RESERVATIONS CALL 670 234 6414 | VISIT WEBSITE SAIPAN.CROWNEPLAZA.COM

JOETEN

12 Days of Christmas

SALES EVENT

DECEMBER 14 - 25, 2022

12

$1.69/LB
US SMOKED PICNIC HAM
$4.19 SOUTHERN COMFORT TRADITIONAL EGG NOG 32OZ
December 14, 2022

11

40% OFF
US FRESH CHRISTMAS TREES
$4.19 SOUTHERN COMFORT VANILLA SPICE EGG NOG 32OZ
December 15, 2022

10

$4.95
US XL FRESH EGGS 1 DOZEN
HONEYDEW $1.19/LB
ALLEGRA ASSORTED PASTA 1LB $1.29
December 16, 2022

9

18 FOR $13.99
LIBBY'S VIENNA SAUSAGE 4.60Z
LIBBY'S PUMPKIN SOLID 29OZ $4.99
JIFFY FOIL PIE PAN 3CT $1.29
December 17, 2022

8

30% OFF BICYCLES
December 18, 2022

7

SUMIRE CALROSE RICE 44#
December 19, 2022 $20.99

6

BH COOKING POT 8.5QT
$10.00 December 20, 2022

5

BUTTERBALL, NORBEST, JENNIE-O WHOLE TURKEY
December 21, 2022 $1.79/LB

4

US CHOICE CHILL BEEF SKIRT STEAK
$10.79/LB December 22, 2022

3

OSTER BLENDER 2 IN 1 200Z
December 23, 2022 $45.00

2

ASSORTED ARIZONA JUICES & TEAS 23OZ
$1.29 December 24, 2022

1

ACE OF DIAMONDS TUNA 7OZ
December 25, 2022 48 FOR $72.00

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

All offers are valid on the date stated only and only available at specified Joeten Stores. US SMOKED PICNIC HAM, SOUTHERN COMFORT TRADITIONAL EGG NOG 32oz, US FRESH CHRISTMAS TREES, SOUTHERN COMFORT VANILLA SPICE EGG NOG 32oz, US FRESH XL EGGS 1 DOZEN, US FRESH HONEYDEW MELON, ALLEGRA ASSORTED PASTA 1 LB, LIBBY'S VIENNA SAUSAGE 4.6oz, LIBBY'S PUMPKIN SOLID 29oz, JIFFY FOIL PIE PAN 3ct, BICYCLES, SUMIRE CALROSE RICE 44#, BH COOKING POT 8.5 QT, BUTTERBALL WHOLE TURKEY, NORBEST WHOLE TURKEY, JENNIE-O WHOLE TURKEY, US CHOICE CHILL BEEF SKIRT STEAK, OSTER BLENDER 2 IN 1 20oz, ASSORTED ARIZONA JUICES & TEAS 23oz , and ACE OF DIAMONDS TUNA 7oz, applies only to all locations: Joeten Susupe, Garapan, Dan Dan and Kagman. All offers must be accepted as given and cannot be exchanged for cash, credit or other items. While supplies last.

Although Joeten strives to ensure that all pricing and information on this promo ad is accurate, occasionally an error may occur and goods may be mispriced. We reserve the right to correct all typographical and pictorial errors.

FOLLOW US: joetenstore joetenstore

Christmas GIFT IDEAS

Supersonic 43" Dled HD Smart TV
$269.95
AT **PAYLESS SUPERFRESH & TRUCKLOAD STORE**

Brentwood 12 Speed Pulse Blender
$19.95

Macgregor XS-100 Basketball
$21.79
AT **JOETEN SUSUPE**

Black+Decker Coffee Maker
$49

Hydro Flask WMouth 40oz
$70.95 EACH
AT **iSHOP**

Hershel Supply Company One Size Bag Eco Nova
$115

Zara Gold Flats
$45 AT **SAIPAN SHOES**

Lego Advent Harry Potter
$49.95
AT **JOETEN SUPERSTORE**

Puma Rider Future
$82.99
AT **ATHLETE'S FOOT**

Moon Lamp
$28
AT **MG MALL**

Balenciaga Bag Hardware Tote With Strap
$784
AT **ARC**

Project Painting
$12.95

Handbag
$48
AT **PENA HOUSE BOUTIQUE**

Cala Tinted Lip Oil Trio
$9.95 AT **I LOVE SAIPAN POP UP STORE**

L.A. Colors Blush/ Highlighter Palette
$6.95

Roses Centerpiece Bouquet
$65

Sunshine & Daydreams Candle
$29

AT **BLOSSOMS FLOWER SHOP**

Planter Ornate White 6"
$20.99
AT **ACE HARDWARE**

Plant Hayden Tan
$20.99

Marc Jacobs Daisy Love Eau So Sweet
$106
AT **DFS GALLERIA**

Bvlgari Omnia Crystalline Eau de Toilette
$84

Prices are as of December 13, 2022

It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving.

Above all, be kind.

50 ANNIVERSARY
One Beat. One Team. One Vision.
Tan Holdings

Tan Siu Lin Foundation

Merry Christmas!
Toys & Clothes
for children ages 0 to 10
10%-20% off clothing & toys
Dec 16 to Dec 24
LOLLIPOPS
BEACH RD., GARAPAN
Holiday Hours: Mon-Sat 9am-8pm
Sunday 10am to 4pm
TEL. 234-8040
LIKE US ON facebook
Happy Holidays!
a boutique for Tween Girls
ages 8-12
10%-15% off clothing & toys
Dec 16 to Dec 24
Girl Talk
FISG Bldg., Micro Beach Road, next to Poki Yaki
Holiday Hours: Mon - Sat: 11am to 6pm
Closed on Sunday
TEL. 233-8050
Like us on Facebook

Holiday shopping deals are here!

Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

This really is the season to be jolly as holiday deals have arrived aplenty! Give your loved ones or treat yourselves to presents or feasts to remember without wrecking your budget by going over a selection of holiday shopping season deals. Hurry up, take advantage of these deals before they run out, and don't be a last-minute shopper!

Joeten Shopping Center

From Dec. 14 to Christmas Day, Dec. 25, enjoy Joeten Shopping Center's 12 Days of Christmas Sales Event on 12 selected items at their specified stores. Discounts and deals are available on different items daily, including U.S. Smoked Picnic Ham, Southern Comfort Traditional Eggnog, U.S. Fresh Christmas Trees, U.S. XL Fresh Eggs 1 Dozen, Honeydew, Allegra Assorted Pasta 1lb., Libby's Vienna Sausage 4.6oz., Libby's Pumpkin Solid 29oz., Jiffy Foil Pan 3CT., bicycles, Sumire Calrose Rice #44, BH cooking pot 8.5qt., Butterball, Nobrest, Jennie-O Whole Turkey, U.S. Choice Chill Beef Skirt Steak, Oster Blender 2 in 1 20oz., Assorted Arizona Juices and Teas 23oz., and Ace of Diamonds Tuna, 7oz.

MG Mall

Stuck on what to buy this Christmas? Make your way to MG Mall in Chalan Piao beside the

See HOLIDAY on Page 22

LET US GIVE LOVE
ON CHRISTMAS DAY
Garapan: Tel: (670) 233-4519/20 Sun - Wed 6am - 10pm, Thurs - 6am - 2am, Fri - Sat - 24 hrs
Susupe: Tel: (670) 235-5379/80 6am - 10pm daily
shirleyscoffeeshopfanpage
shirleyscoffeeshop

We Accept Reservations for Private Parties & Orders of Party Trays 670.234-3331

Business Schedule:
Tues-Fri 5PM-8PM (1 Session)
Sat-Sun 1 Session 2PM-4PM
2 Session 4:30PM-6:30PM
3 Session 7PM-9PM

HEALTHY BENEFITS OF ROLLER SKATING:
1. It burns calories
2. It build muscles
3. It's good for your heart & defeats diabetes
4. It's low impact (means minimal stress on your joints)
5. It's good for your mental health

WE ACCEPT RESERVATIONS FOR PRIVATE PARTY

Email Address: saipanwinners15@gmail.com
Facebook: International Roller Skates- Saipan
Instagram: rollersk8_saipan
Reservations must be made a week in advance.
For inquiries, please call (670)235-3313 & (670)235-2560

HOLIDAY

From Page 20

Hopwood Middle School for great deals, with 10% off on all items and up to 70% off on select items. Free gift wrapping is available. Warehouse clearance sale lasts from 5pm until 8pm on Dec. 16, 17, 22, 23, and 24. Call (670) 235-0072 for more information or visit the store at Chalan Piao next to Gold Ribbon.

Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan

Have you tried out the newly opened Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan yet? Now is your chance to try it out with family on Christmas Eve with a scrumptious lunch buffet at The Terrace Restaurant from 11am to 2pm for $40 and 50% off children ages 4 to 11. For the Christmas Eve dinner, stop by from 5:30pm to 9:30pm for $64 and $25 per child. On Christmas Day, swing by The Terrace Restaurant again for a brunch buffet from 11am to 2pm for $75 and $25 per child. For Christmas dinner, it's $65 and $25 per child starting at 5:30pm to 9:30pm. Christmas Day lunch and dinner are inclusive of selected beers, white/red wine, sparkling wine, soft drinks, tea and coffee. Call (670)234-6414 for reservations.

Aqua Resort Club Saipan

Feast at Aqua Resort Club Saipan's Christmas Eve Dinner Buffet from 6pm to 9pm for $60 and $30 per child. Want dinner and a show? Come on down to their Sunset BBQ Dinner Show from 6pm to 8pm, featuring live Polynesian Fire Dance Show by Tasi & the Ali'is. On Christmas Day, make your way to their Christmas Day Brunch from 11am to 2pm for $60 ($49 locals) and $30 ($24.50 locals) per child. For Christmas dinner from 6pm to 9pm, try it out for $60 ($49 locals) and $30 ($24.50 locals) per child as well. Book either of these by Dec. 19 for extra savings! Try out Christmas at Kevin's on either Christmas Eve dinner or Christmas Day dinner from 6pm to 10pm, for a tasty Chef's special Holiday Set Menu & Wine Flight, $100 per person. Call (670) 322-1232 for reservations.

Make their holiday a little brighter

Gifts for grandma and grandpa—check. CHenchu'le for the children—check.
Tinsel for the tree—check. Lights for the lawn—check.

Make checking off your list that much merrier with a personal loan* of up to $50,000.

Apply today at bankofguam.com

Bank of Guam 50

Member FDIC

*Subject to Bank of Guam lending criteria. Terms and conditions apply.

Hyatt Regency Saipan

Ride a canoe into 2023 at the Hyatt Regency Saipan Beach on Dec. 31 with free canoe rides by 500 Sails from 11am to 2pm. For New Year's Eve dinner, head into Giovanni's from 6pm to 9pm for $65 per person, or $59 for Club at the Hyatt members. It's inclusive of free-flowing beverage package of red/white/sparkling wine/beer. Count the new year down with event host Brad Ruszala at the Hyatt for the New Year's Eve Countdown. Alcohol is available for $5 each, which you can chug down as you wait for the fireworks display over Hyatt beach and the hotel. For every $25 purchase, bearer gets one raffle ticket. VIP tables are available for only $180 for six persons, inclusive of one bottle of sparkling wine, one bottle of vodka and mixer (cranberry juice, soda; water and Coke), six cans of beer, nuts, and seven raffle tickets. Win fantastic prizes in the raffle draws and dance to the live music performance by the High Tide Band and exhilarating countdown music by DJ Big Ken!

Island Skin Solutions

Treat yourself or your loved one's skin with Saipan's Premier Medical Spa at Island Skin Solutions. Services available are Picosecond Laser Treatment, Medical-Grade Chemical Peels, Microneedling, Hydrafacial, Laser Hair Removal, Botox & Dermal Fillers, and professional skincare products. Gift certificates are available! Text (670) 285-0783 or visit their Facebook page, Island Skin Solutions, for more information. For appointments call 670-323-9000, located at the Marina Heights II building, first floor.

Namaste Beautiful Salon & Spa

Self-care is always in and now more affordable with a 15% off all regular services at Namaste Beautiful Salon & Spa located in Unit 1 USL Bldg., on Middle Road, Gualo Rai. Savings are valid until Jan. 15, 2023. Call (670) 233-9642 for appointments.

Fuji Aire

Looking to cool your house down this holiday season and for the coming summer? Visit Fuji Aire's grand opening this Sunday, Dec. 17, on Middle Road, Chalan Laulau. Fuji Aire air conditioners, with the best quality, two-year full machine warranty, and five-year warranty for compressors, are available. Call (670) 235-3288 for more information.

Dial Rent-to-Own

With a wide range of electronics, from cell phones, televisions, speakers, tablets, to video game consoles, you are sure to find a gift for your tech-savvy friend or family member! For more information, call (670) 234 RENT on Middle Road or (670) 234-DIAL in Chalan Kanoa.

CK Smokehouse

Steaks? Barbecue? Salad? Happy hour? Check out CK Smokehouse for your smoked meat needs. They accept private parties and orders of party trays. Business hours are from Monday through Thursday and Sunday from 5pm to 7pm; and on Friday and Saturday from 5pm to 9pm, enjoy the food with live music. Call (670) 234-3331.

International Roller Skates

Let the good times roll at the International Roller Skate rink in San Antonio. Roll your way into the holiday season and next year with their operation hours from Tuesday to Friday, 5pm to 8pm; one session on Saturday and Sunday from 2pm to 4pm; two sessions from 4:30pm to 6:30pm; and three sessions from 7pm to 9pm. Want the whole place to yourself? They accept private parties, with reservations required a week in advance. Call (670) 235-3313 or (670) 235-2560 or email saipanwinner15@gmail.com. Check out their Facebook page at International Roller Skates-Saipan, or Instagram @rollersk8_saipan.

Lollipops

Get the gift your children have on their wish list—or for those who are kids at heart, as you enjoy 10% to 20% off clothing and toys from Dec. 16 to 24. Holiday hours are from Monday to Saturday, 9am to 8pm. Call (670) 234-8040 for more information.

Girl Talk

Have a tween girl in your life? Take a look at Girl Talk boutique for gift ideas and with their 10% to 15% off clothing and toys from Dec. 16 to 24, you're sure to find some! Check them out at the FISG Bldg., Micro Beach Road, next to Poki Yaki. Holiday hours are Monday to Saturday, 11am to 6pm and closed on Sunday. Call (670) 233-8050 for more information.

Christmas SALE
SHOP NOW!

$13.95 /week

Keyboard Included!
Galaxy Tab S7 FE w/ Keyboard, 64GB

$21.95 /week

27" 5K Retina iMac

$22.95 /week

Samsung S21

$19.95 /week

iPhone 11, 64GB

$26.95 /week

iPhone 13, 128GB

$15.95 /week

iPad Mini, 5th Gen

$28.95 /week

PS5 Horizon Bundle Disc Edition

$19.95 /week

New Built-In Stand!
Nintendo Switch OLED

$14.95 /week

We light up the party!
JBL Party Box Encore

$16.95 /week

Stands over 3 1/2 ft tall!
Top View:
We light up the party!
Home Karaoke Party Speaker

$24.95 /week

HISENSE 75" 4K TV

$12.95 /week

Bag Of Riddim 2 Speaker

$13.95 /week

Built-In Google Assist!
HISENSE 43" 4K TV

$20.95 /week

HISENSE 65" 4K ROKU TV

$17.95 /week

HISENSE 55" 4K TV

*This is a rent to own transaction. You don't own the product until all rental payments are completed. Example: $9.95 x 12 months= $517.40. Items may differ. Some restrictions apply, see store for details.

NO CREDIT CHECKS Middle Road 234-RENT | Chalan Kanoa 234-DIAL DIAL Rent-to-Own

Christmas at the Aqua Resort Club

By TERI M FLORES
CORRESPONDENT

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas at the Aqua Resort Club and this year, the Resort's food and beverage team is pulling out all the stops to make sure that their Christmas Eve and Christmas Day feasts are the events meant to be shared and remembered.

ARC Marketing and Public Relations Assistant Manager Victoria S. Barnes shares the team's excitement to be offering festive holiday buffets at Costa and Christmas pastries and sweets at the Aqua Café.

"Consistent with previous years, we again expect a great turnout from our local community and in-house guests for our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day buffets. To prepare for this, we crafted a menu that features well-loved dishes including Roast Turkey, Housemade Holiday Ham, Grilled Striploin, Seafood on Ice, Free-flowing beer and wines, and luscious desserts," said Barnes.

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day brunch and dinner buffets are priced at $60 for adults and $30 for children. Local residents get a discounted rate of $49 for adults and $24.50 for children. Those who place a reservation by Dec. 19 get an early bird discount, which means more savings. Christmas Eve and Christmas Day dinner is open from 6pm to 9pm, while Christmas Day brunch is between 11am and 2pm. Barnes said there is enough seating to comfortably accommodate 150 guests at Costa.

For those looking for a more intimate and personal dining experience, ARC's fine-dining restaurant, Kevin's The Prime Rib & Seafood, offers an exquisite five-course "Chef's Set," concocted by its new executive chef, Inok Lee. Guests can expect specialty dishes featuring Salmon, Oysters, Rib-eye or Lobster, complimented by Aniti Wines and a delicious dessert cart with Siphon Coffee. The Chef's Table at Kevin's is available every Thursday and Sunday from 6pm to 10pm throughout December.

Barnes said the ARC team is looking forward to making their patrons' holiday celebrations festive and fun by providing them the excellent customer service the Resort is known for,

For reservations, call the Aqua Resort Club at 322-1234 and book your table now.

EAT, DRINK
& be merry
CHRISTMAS EVE DINNER BUFFET
Saturday, December 24 | 6PM—9PM
$60 AD | $30 CH (Local Residents: $49 AD | $24.50 CH)
EARLY BIRD SPECIAL! Book by 12/19/22 for extra savings!
SUNSET BBQ DINNER SHOW
Saturday, December 24 | 6-8PM
Featuring Live Polynesian Fire Dance Show by Tasi & the Ali'is
CHRISTMAS DAY BRUNCH
Sunday, December 25 | 11AM—2PM
$60 AD | $30 CH (Local Residents: $49 AD | $24.50 CH)
EARLY BIRD SPECIAL! Book by 12/19/22 for extra savings!
CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER
Sunday, December 25 | 6PM—9PM
$60 AD | $30 CH (Local Residents: $49 AD | $24.50 CH)
EARLY BIRD SPECIAL! Book by 12/19/22 for extra savings!
CHRISTMAS AT KEVIN'S
Sat, December 24 | 6-10PM -and- Sun, December 25 | 6-10PM
Chef's special Holiday Set Menu & Wine Flight $100 per person
EARLY BIRD SPECIAL - BOOK BY 12/19/22 AND SAVE!
RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED. CALL (670) 322-1234
ARC
AQUA RESORT CLUB
Saipan

Give love on Christmas Day

Boonie Babies Rescue founders, sisters Aria Keilbach, center, and Grace Keilbach, right, are joined by volunteers and some of their Boonie Babies rescues.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By TERI FLORES
CORRESPONDENT

After two years of muted celebrations, Christmas this year is getting its mojo back as the "most wonderful time of the year," as one carol describes this special time. With the pandemic behind us, a lot of us have gone back to full celebratory mode to drink a toast to going back to "normal," we know it and are used to.

Yet our perspective of Christmas and the so-called "spirit" of the season has definitely changed. COVID-19 was like the Grinch who took away the life we thought we knew and replaced it with uncertainties. Before COVID-19 happened, Christmas was predominantly spent anticipating the numerous parties, get-togethers and the gift-giving and, most of all, the gift receiving. Now that we are almost out of the grip of this pandemic, the question that need to be answered is: "Is there more to the tinsel and glitter of Christmas?

So, just for the thrill of finding out if Google really holds the answer to life's questions, I searched what the meaning of Christmas is and, to my surprise, one of the results describe the lesson of the season as a "great time to be thankful for the bigger things in life. The holidays are a great opportunity to give to those less fortunate and to talk to your kids about all the things they have that they are grateful for."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Saipan Cares for Animals partners Yumi Brundidge, left, and Beth Pliscou.

This definition reminds me of *The Gift of Magi*, the O. Henry Christmas story that narrates how a young couple gave up their most valuable possessions to buy their first Christmas gift for each other. As the story shows, we don't need to go to the extreme of spending and getting elaborate gifts to spread the joy of the season. Why not go back to the basics of investing more time on things that really matter—the people we hold dear, the friend in need, or the community that is always on the lookout for a volunteer or two to help them in their advocacies.

After COVID-19 challenged all aspects of our lives, this Yuletide season might just be the right time to recalibrate and rethink what we value and deem important. Why wait for the New Year to make resolutions that make us feel good about ourselves? We can start now.

■■■

For this season, we have prepared this Christmas guide to offer ideas for gift giving, places to visit, and where you can bring the family and loved ones to celebrate your annual Christmas get-together. Most importantly, we are beginning what we hope will become a yearly tradition for *Saipan Tribune*. As what one of the most popular Christmas song encourages us to do (*Give Love on Christmas Day*), we have chosen eight non-profit organizations who will receive a portion of our ad sales from this special insert. Benefitting from this program are the following organizations:

AUTISM SOCIETY OF THE CNMI

The Autism Society of the CNMI exists to help increase awareness about this developmental disorder, which affects how a person perceives and socializes with others, and serves as a resource for parents who may be in the dark as to what autism spectrum disorder is.

Originally, the organization started as a support group for parents with loved ones who've been diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. While the group now focuses more on raising awareness about autism, they still continue to provide resources and guidance, which are extremely important help for families dealing with the disorder.

The group relies on donations and hosts yearly fundraising events, with its keynote event being the AS-CNMI Quiz Nite. This 501(c)(3) non-profit group welcomes volunteers who can provide new ideas and direction for the team. Contact. Romeo Cuellar at autismsocietyc-mni@gmail.com

■■■

SAIPAN CARES FOR ANIMAL

Following the destruction of Saipan's animal shelter from Typhoon Soudelor in Octo-

See LOVE on Page 27

Give your loved ones the special treatment this holiday season

Island Skin Solutions

Saipan's Premier Medical Spa

- Picosecond Laser Treatment
- Medical-Grade Chemical Peels
- Microneedling
- Hydrafacial
- Laser Hair Removal
- Botox & Dermal Fillers
- Professional Skin-care Products

Gift Certificates Available! Text 670-285-0783

@IslandSkinSolutions
For Appointments Call 670-323-9000
www.islandskinsolutions.com
Marina Heights II Building, First Floor

FUJIAIRE
Your World Made Cooler

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Grand opening on

December 17, 2022

FUJIAIRE AIR CONDITIONER LANDING ON SAIPAN

Best QUALITY

TWO YEARS FULL MACHINE WARRANTY

FIVE YEARS WARRANTY FOR COMPRESSOR

Best VALUE

JAPAN MACHINE QUALITY

CHINA MACHINE PRICE

Best SERVICE

WE HAVE SERVICE DEPARTMENT

CUSTOMER FIRST

Welcome to visit and compare

Address: MIDDLE ROAD,CHALAN LAULAN,SAIPAN Tel: 6702353288

LOVE

From Page 25

ber 2015 and the need to assist and shelter displaced animals, a group of volunteers, many of whom were already doing work at the mayor's shelter, decided to band together to form this group. With help from Humane Society International, it visited Saipan to train some of the volunteers to become veterinary technicians, including Beth Pliscou, who later became SCA's director.

SCA opened its Animal Care Clinic and Shelter in As Gonno in August 2016, and then relocated to its Gualo Rai home since April 2022. The shelter operates as a clinic and, with its "Virtual Shelter" program, allows community members to volunteer to shelter animals.

Since they are a non-profit organization, the biggest challenge the group faces on a daily basis is how to keep the clinic open to the community. The clinic operates on a shoestring budget, with revenue generated from fees going to animal care, supplies and services, with barely nothing left for operations. The fee schedule is intended to be affordable. No animal is denied care and services for inability to pay. However, pet parents can opt to "pay when able." The SCA depends highly on community support, donations, and grants to supplement its services.

The SCA's two-pronged mission is to reduce the stray animal overpopulation in the CNMI through spaying and neutering dogs and cats. SCA accomplishes this by adopting out animals that have been sterilized. In addition, SCA offers low-cost spay and neuter services to the community, which are provided by visiting volunteer veterinarians that SCA recruits.

Empowering people in the CMI to care for their pets is the group's second goal and to meet this, they provide education about pet care and when they need to be taken to SCA.

Clinic doors are open to the community for services and welcome volunteers who work eight hours a day, seven days a week. They are always looking for volunteers. In fact, many high school students volunteer and afternoons at the clinic often looks like a busy youth center.

■■■

CENTER FOR LIVING INDEPENDENTLY-CNMI

Established in 2004, this non-profit agency is dedicated toward ensuring the rights of people with disabilities to live fully integrated into the community with equal opportunities and choices in life. The agency started as a satellite office of the Hawaii Center for Independent Living. In 2005, it gained its autonomy and became what it is now following a successful audit. Since then, the CLI-CNMI acquired an IRS 501 (c)(3) status, run by and for persons with disabilities.

Not many in the community are aware of the existence of CLI-CNMI and the agency hopes to increase awareness about their services with the community's help. Individuals with disabilities needing assistance is growing in number and one way to help is by becoming a volunteer. For more information about the agency and available volunteer work, visit them at 1365 and 1366 on Navy Hill or call 322-4303/4304 or send an email to ssatur@clicnmi.org to schedule an interview. A valid photo ID and a police clearance is required.

■■■

BOONIE BABIES RESCUE

Providing access to quality veterinary services and animal-related resources and relocating animals out of the CNMI with the end goal of reducing the stray dog and cat population on the islands are the reasons behind this non-profit organization. More importantly, the group aims to foster respect for animal life by increasing awareness through education.

The group's founders, sisters Aria and Grace Keilbach, wanted to address and ease what they saw was the suffering stray dogs and cats in the CNMI, so they began driving around the island feeding stray dogs and cats. Eventually, worldwide help came and volunteers from Canada, the U.S. mainland and Austria fly out regularly to Saipan to help meet the organization's goals. To date. 300 animals have already been rescued and rehabilitated by the group.

Just recently, Boonie Babies Rescue was awarded a BOOST grant. However, most of their funding comes from private donations and by hosting fundraising events such as group walks, puppy yoga, beach cleanups, among others. These events also allow the group to share information about animal care and their mission to save boonies dogs.

The group is always on the lookout for volunteers. Volunteers help socialize the dogs in many fun ways as well as assist in the animal's day-to-day care. To keep updated and involved in their work, follow the Boonie Babies Rescue on their social media pages on Instagram @ booniebabies, on Facebook at Boonie Babies Rescue and on TikTok at stay_wavy_baby. Simply liking, sharing, and commenting on the posts goes a long way in helping the group increase awareness and educate the community about their advocacy.

■■■

FRIENDS OF THE JOETEN-KIYU PUBLIC LIBRARY

This non-profit was organized to promote the continuous existence and effectiveness of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library to the community. The group holds several fundraising events yearly, including book sales with proceeds used to fund different library activities.

HYATT REGENCY
SAIPAN
31 DEC
Bask in the last few hours of 2022 and check out the
Canoe Rides by 500 Sails
FREE | 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM | Hyatt Beach
31 DEC
New Year's Eve Dinner | Giovanni's
$65 per person | $59 Club at the Hyatt | 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Inclusive of free-flowing beverage package
(red/white/sparkling/beer)
Welcome 2023 with a bang!
31 DEC
01 JAN
New Year's Eve Countdown
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC | 10:00 PM - 2:00 AM
Bring your picnic mats, chairs and shout your lungs out as we countdown to 2023 while watching the amazing fireworks.
Bar is open and all drinks for $5 (red/white/sparkling/beer)
For every $25 purchase, bearer gets one (1) raffle ticket.
Get the best spot at the beach to view the spectacular fireworks! VIP Tables are available for only $180 for 6pax.
Inclusive of 1 bottle of sparkling wine, 1 bottle of vodka and mixer (cranberry juice, soda, water, and coke),
6 cans of beer, nuts and 7 raffle tickets.
It's a party! Win fantastic prizes in the raffle draws and dance to the live music performance by the High Tide Band and exhilarating countdown music by DJ Big Ken!
The event is hosted by Brad Ruszala.
Say hello to the New Year
with Hyatt Regency Saipan!
Please call +1 (670) 234-1234

Happy Holidays

MARIANAS COFFEE

Marianas Strong Since 2004

Marianas Coffee wants to thank all its customers and businesses for supporting our locally roasted coffee products here on Saipan.

Hotels

Hyatt Regency
Aqua Resort Club
Pacific Islands Club
Saipan World Resort
Coral Ocean Resort
Grandvrio Resort Saipan

Stores

Joeten Superstore
Joeten Stores
ABC Stores
Brabu Pharmacy
Himawari Saipan
LJ's Market

Restaurants & Bars

Godfather's Bar
Java Joes
Marianas Creations
Island Café
Mango Six Café

We kindly ask you to support and use these fine establishments for their excellent service and commitment to local brands.

Thank You,
David Hood
& TEAM

Business

Kensington welcomes 2 new chefs

MARK RABAGO

Dongheon Lee shows off his wok skills at Kensington Hotel Saipan's East Moon Chinese Restaurant.

MARK RABAGO

Jeong Loah is the new chef at Kensington's Meisho Japanese restaurant.

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Kensington Hotel Saipan has brought in the heavy guns as far as propping up its culinary team is concerned after welcoming chefs Dongheon Lee and Jeong Loah to the San Roque property.

Originally from Busan, the 51-year-old Lee will now headline the five-star hotel's East Moon Chinese restaurant and not two weeks into the job, he already is promising to make the outlet the No. 1 restaurant on Saipan.

Asked what his guests should look forward to at East Moon, Lee's ready answer is his nan jawans dish, which is deep-fried crispy meatballs flash-cooked in a light savory sauce that's packed with umami flavors and comes with crunchy vegetables like bok choy and shitake mushrooms.

Lee has dedicated more than two decades of his life to the culinary arts, particularly in authentic Chinese cuisine and will now revamp East Moon based on his culinary expertise and experience.

He built that expertise while working in five-star hotels and refined restaurants. He was in charge of the modern Chinese restaurant of Grand Mercure Ambassador Hotel Changwon and the Chinese menu of Ananti Penthouse Haewoondae Busan, both in Korea.

Lee said he always welcomes new challenges, seeing them as opportunities. This is why he decided to get on board Kensington. As he joins his new hotel family, East Moon will be enriched with a range of fascinating and delightfully new Chinese gourmet food.

The 40-year-old Loah, meanwhile, brings quite a resume to Kensington's Meisho Japanese restaurant.

Loah was the winner at the International Food Grand Prix Seoul, a certified competition by World Top Chef's Organization, in the category of Live Sushi and Japanese Exhibition in 2017.

With that impressive win, he now wants Meisho to become the first restaurant in the CNMI to get a Michelin Star, which is awarded to restaurants offering outstanding cooking.

While at Meisho, he also wants to incorporate as many local ingredients as possible like fresh produce and tuna and blue marlin caught around the waters of Saipan.

Loah started his career at Ritz Carlton Seoul, one of top global hotel chain brands in the early 2000s and has been exploring the world of Japanese cuisine for 17 years.

Loah's determination and amazing skill has led him to kitchens of several five-star hotels, namely Grand Hyatt Seoul and Hotel Shilla.

His principle in treating guests is no less than serving them with only the best quality food. His go-to Japanese dish—or in this case dishes—is the traditional multi-course Japanese dinner called Kaiseki.

According to the internet, Kaiseki typically include an appetizer, sashimi, a simmered dish, a grilled dish. and a steamed course, in addition to other dishes at the discretion of the chef.

Since arriving on Saipan last Nov. 30, Loah has grown to love the tropical climate and can't wait to make memories and friends on the island.

Now, his new journey begins here on Saipan and Meisho will be reborn with Japanese cuisine of another level.

Loah's first task is Christmas Eve Dinner at Meisho, at which an unparalleled dining experience will be presented with a 10-course exquisite menu.

He's also collaborating with Lee to prepare Kensington's new Sunday Brunch with a dynamic Asian theme.

For reservations and inquiries at East Moon and Meisho, call 322-3311 or email reservations@kensingtonsaipan.com.

First Hawaiian, Inc. appoints Moses as CFO

Moses

First Hawaiian, the parent company of First Hawaiian Bank, announced that it has appointed James M. Moses as Vice Chairman and chief financial officer of First Hawaiian, Inc. and First Hawaiian Bank, effective Jan. 3, 2023.

"Jamie brings more than 20 years of diverse banking experience to the team. His track record of driving financial growth in complex organizations makes him a great fit for First Hawaiian. We look forward to integrating his expertise into our ongoing initiatives," said Bob Harrison, First Hawaiian, Inc. chairman, president, and CEO. "I want to thank Ralph Mesick for serving as our interim CFO and effectively guiding us through this transition period."

Moses joins the company from First Bank in St. Louis, Missouri, where he served as executive vice president and CFO. His previous experience includes serving as EVP and CFO of Berkshire Hills Bancorp, and senior vice president-manager, Asset Liability Management at Webster Bank. During his career, Moses has been credited with developing, maintaining and executing regional and product specific pricing strategies for a multi-billion-dollar interest-bearing deposit portfolio, and has been instrumental in guiding large scale technology enhancements.

First Hawaiian, Inc. (NASDAQ: FHB) is a bank holding company headquartered in Honolulu, Hawaii. Its principal subsidiary, First Hawaiian Bank, founded in 1858, is Hawaii's largest financial institution with branch locations throughout Hawaii, Guam and Saipan. The company offers a comprehensive suite of banking services to consumer and commercial customers including deposit products, loans, wealth management, insurance, trust, retirement planning, credit card and merchant processing services. Customers may also access their accounts through ATMs, online and mobile banking channels. For more information about First Hawaiian, Inc., visit the Company's website, www.fhb.com. ***(PR)***

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ., F-0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547 | FAX: (670) 234-9537
ATTORNEY FOR Plaitiffs

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

DEELYN MANOSHI CAMACHO KEREMIUS, VINCENT ANTHONY CAMACHO KEREMIUS AND JOHN CHRISTIAN CAMACHO KEREMIUS, Plaintiffs,
-v-
BERNARD FRANCIS KEREMIUS and MSJ, LLC, Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 22-0085

FIRST AMENDED SUMMONS

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given you herewith, within twenty-one (21) days after service of this Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC, the Plaintiff's attorneys, whose address is Post Office Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for your relief demanded in the Complaint.

By order of the above Court:

/s/
Clerk of Court

Dated, this 22nd day of August, 2022.

NAME: JENNALYN B. DE LEON
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 500776
Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 785-1982

Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE MATTER OF THE APPOINTMENT OF JENNALYN B. DE LEON AS GUARDIAN OF THE ESTATE OF: I.J.B.D.L .B.D.L.J -INITIALS ONLY Minor Children

By:.

Jennalyn B. De Leon Petitioner

FCD-GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 22-0341

NOTICE OF HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Appointment of Guardian for the Estate of the above-named minor children by (Name of Petitioner) Jennalyn B. De Leon, Petitioner, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court.

A HEARING of said Petition will be held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at Superior Court before Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio on the 17th day of April, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 217A or as soon as thereafter.

Patrick V. Diaz

/s/
Clerk of Court
BY: Deputy Clerk of Court

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP23-CHCC/FACILITY-002

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JAN. 3rd 2023 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

"WATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR THE HOSPITAL AND HEMODIALYSIS"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.HEALTH]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB OF THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL. IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
DPW23-ITB NO. 42300024

SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 09, 2023 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"Commercial office space for the Secretary's office, Division of Building Safety Code and Division of Technical Services of the Department of Public Works"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL (https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT HORIGUCHI BLDG, GROUND FLOOR, 123 KOPPA DI ORU & BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK UPON ENTRY****

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO THE SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS, JAMES A. ADA AT (670) 234-9828

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P.S.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW23-ITB NO. 42300021

SUBMISSION DATE: January 11, 2023 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Chalan Kanoa Road and Drainage Improvement Project, Saipan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The project package will be available on or after **December 09, 2022** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan.

A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at DPW Technical Services Division required for each set.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **December 27, 2022**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **January 04, 2023** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division,** 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR,
DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES

World

WORLD BRIEFS

Ukraine: Russian strikes thwarted, wreckage hits buildings

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Ukrainian authorities said they thwarted a Russian attack on Kyiv and the surrounding region Wednesday as their air defense system destroyed 13 explosive-laden drones, although wreckage damaged five buildings, without causing casualties.

The attempted strikes underlined how vulnerable Ukraine's capital remains to the regular Russian attacks that have devastated infrastructure and population centers in recent weeks, mostly in the country's east and south. But they also highlighted Ukraine's claims of increasing efficiency in intercepting drones and missiles, and the possibility that Patriot missiles from the U.S. may further boost defenses.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in a video the "terrorists" fired 13 Iranian-made drones, and all were intercepted. Such drones have been part of the firepower — along with rockets, missiles, mortars and artillery — that Russia uses to target power stations, water facilities and other public utility equipment.

The snow-covered capital remained largely calm after the foiled attack, which occurred around daybreak. As the working day began, authorities sounded the all-clear.

The head of the Kyiv city administration, Serhii Popko, wrote on Telegram that the attempted strikes came in two waves. Wreckage from the intercepted drones damaged an administrative building and four residential buildings, he said.

Bethlehem welcomes Christmas tourists after pandemic lull

BETHLEHEM, West Bank (AP)—Business is bouncing back in Bethlehem after two years in the doldrums during the coronavirus pandemic, lifting spirits in the traditional birthplace of Jesus ahead of the Christmas holiday.

Streets are bustling with tour groups. Hotels are fully booked, and months of deadly Israeli-Palestinian fighting appears to be having little effect on the vital tourism industry.

Elias Arja, head of the Bethlehem hotel association, said that tourists are hungry to visit the Holy Land's religious sites after suffering through lockdowns and travel restrictions in recent years. He expects the rebound to continue into next year.

"We expect that 2023 will be booming and business will be excellent because the whole world, and Christian religious tourists especially, they all want to return to the Holy Land," said Arja, who owns the Bethlehem Hotel.

On a recent day, dozens of groups from virtually every continent posed for selfies in front of the Church of the Nativity, built on the grotto where Christians believe Jesus was born. A giant Christmas tree sparkled in the adjacent Manger Square, and tourists packed into shops to buy olive wood crosses and other souvenirs.

Peru's new government declares police state amid protest

LIMA, Peru (AP)—Peru's new government declared a national emergency Wednesday as it struggled to calm violent protests over President Pedro Castillo's ouster, suspending the rights of "personal security and freedom" across the Andean nation for 30 days.

Acts of vandalism, violence and highway blockades as thousands of Peruvians are in the streets "require a forceful and authoritative response from the government," Defense Minister Luis Otarola Peñaranda said.

The declaration suspends the rights of assembly and freedom of movement and empowers the police, supported by the military, to search people's homes without permission or judicial order. Otarola said it had not been determined whether a nightly curfew would be imposed.

Peru has been wracked by nearly a week of political crisis and unrest that have undermined stability.

The troubles have "been increasing in such magnitude that the very idea of order, the very idea of authorities that can govern the country in some way is called into question," said Jorge Aragón, a political science professor at Pontifical Catholic University of Peru.

The decree, he added, is "a way of wanting to recover a certain minimum stability, a certain minimum functioning of the country, but obviously it is also the recognition that without that use of force that cannot be

Diplomats: UN blocks Myanmar military from taking UN seat

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—A key U.N. committee has again blocked Myanmar's military junta from taking the country's seat at the United Nations, two well-informed U.N. diplomats said Wednesday.

The General Assembly's credentials committee met Monday and deferred action on the junta's request, the diplomats said, speaking on condition of anonymity before a formal announcement likely later this week.

The decision means that Kyaw Moe Tun, who was Myanmar's ambassador at the United Nations when the military ousted civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi on Feb. 1, 2021, will remain on the job.

Last December, Myanmar's military rulers also failed in their effort to replace Tun, who remains a supporter of the previous government and the opposition National Unity Government, which opposes the junta.

Chris Gunness, director of the London-based Myanmar Accountability Project, welcomed the credentials committee's move, saying it has "great diplomatic and symbolic significance, at a time when the illegal coup leaders are attempting to gain international recognition."

"General Min Aung Hlaing has inflicted on the people of Myanmar violence of a scale not seen in southeast Asia since Pol Pot unleashed the Khmer Rouge's reign of terror on Cambodia," Gunness said in a statement.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866/234-9447/234-7689/234-7670 -
Fax. (670) 234-9021 I Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Ralph DLG. Torres, Governor — *This ad is paid for by NMHC funds* — Arnold I. Palacios, Lt. Governor

Notice is hereby given that the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is the agency authorized to allocate Low Incoming Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) in the CNMI. The United States 1986 Tax Reform Act created the federal low-income housing tax credit program under Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code (Code) to assist with the development of low-income rental housing by providing qualified owners with credit to offset their federal tax obligations. The LIHTC is available to owners/developers of qualifying buildings and projects that meet certain low-income occupancy and rent restrictions.

Section 42 of the Code provides that the CNMI prepare a Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) to determine housing priorities and to give preference to projects serving the lowest income tenants and projects obligated to serve qualified tenants for the longest periods. The QAP must incorporate selection criteria, which include project location, housing need characteristics, sponsor characteristics, tenant populations with special needs, and public housing authority waiting lists. The QAP (as in the previous QAP) includes the capital needs assessment, limiting developer fees, and income averaging.

NMHC will conduct a public hearing to solicit comments from the public on 01/20/23, 9:00 a.m., at NMHC's Main Office in Garapan, Saipan. Copies of the draft **2023-2024** Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) are also available at NMHC's Main Office in Garapan, Saipan and on our website at www.nmhcgov.net.

Interested persons wishing to express their views on the QAP may do so either by attending the public hearing or by submitting comments to NMHC by 4:30 p.m. on 01/20/23. Further, individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

For more information on this program, please contact NMHC at 234-6866/7670/7689/9447.

/S/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Tel: (670) 664-2371 | Fax: (670) 664-2408 | Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION TO BID
ITB23-GOV/OPD--42300023

ATTORNEY GENERAL OFFICE RENOVATION IN SUSUPE
SUBMISSION DATE: 10:00 AM ChST JANUARY 13, 2023

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is soliciting sealed bids for the *Attorney General Office Renovation* in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). This project will be funded by the 702 Covenant funding under the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs.

The project package will be available in digital format only on **December 16, 2022** at the Capital Improvement Program Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan, during regular working hours.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the Attorney General's Office located in Susupe, Saipan, CNMI at **10:00 AM ChST December 29, 2022.** Proposers may also request to participate virtually via Zoom Meetings five (5) days prior to the meeting scheduled.

Questions regarding this ITB may be submitted via email to Ms. Nerissa B. Karakaya at nerissa.benavente@gov.mp no later than **4:30 PM ChST January 4, 2023.** All Questions & Answers will be shared with all prospective bidders.

Bidders located outside of the CNMI must fill out and submit the Notice of Intent to Bid Form to the Director of Procurement Services no later than **10:00 AM ChST, January 13, 2023.**

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS, AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ Ralph DLG. Torres
Governor, CNMI

/s/ Francisco C. Aguon, Acting Director
CNMI Procurement Services

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950 | Gualo Rai Center, Saipan
Tel. No. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp

NOTICE OF APPLICATION
As of December 16, 2022

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. U.S.A. Fanter Corporation, Ltd.	08/05/2022 CRM-MS2022-0003	Cement Batching Plant & Hollow Block Facility	Kannat Tabla, Saipan	Major Siting	Public Hearing 01/05/2023
2. Department of Public Works (DPW)	09/21/2022 CRM-MS2022-0001	Route 33 Beach Road Improvement Phase III & IV	Beach Road Oleai - Garapan, Saipan	Major Siting	Approved 12/15/2022
3. Joaquina Agulto	11/14/2022 APC2022-0002	Construction of a Single Story, 2-Bedroom Residential House	Chalan Kanoa, Saipan	Wetlands & Mangroves	On Hold*
4.Department of Public Works (DPW)	11/17/2022 CRM-MS2022-0002	Kagman Transfer Station Facility	Kagman, Saipan	Major Siting	Application Review
5.J.C.A, Inc. dba McDonald's Of Saipan	11/30/2022 APC2022-0003	Construction of 3 Unit Warehouse Facility	San Jose, Saipan	Wetlands & Mangroves	Appoved* 12/13/2022
6.Office of Planning & Development (OPD) – Office of the Governor	11/30/2022 CRM-MD2022-0003	Garapan Revitalization Project	Garapan, Saipan	Shoreline	Approved* 12/12/2022

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

Life & Style

Eddie Murphy to receive Cecil B. DeMille award at Globes

NEW YORK (AP)—Eddie Murphy will receive the Cecil B. DeMille Award at the 80th Golden Globes, the Hollywood Foreign Press Association announced Wednesday.

The honorary award for the comedian and actor adds to a broadcast that's taking shape after two years of scandal and backlash tarnished the Globes. After taking the previous Globes off the air, NBC will telecast the ceremony Tuesday, Jan. 10, with comedian Jerrod Carmichael hosting.

Murphy

On a one-year deal with NBC, the Globes are attempting to make a comeback after a Los Angeles Times investigation in early 2021 found that the press association then had no Black members and enumerated a long history of ethical indiscretions. Many stars and studios said they would boycott the show, and NBC canceled the 2022 broadcast.

The films "The Banshees of Inisherin" and "Everything Everywhere All at Once" led in nominations to the Globes announced Monday. "Abbott Elementary" topped TV nominees.

Murphy has been nominated for a Globe six times before, winning once, for his performance in 2006's "Dreamgirls." His most recent nomination was for best actor in a comedy or musical for 2019's "Dolemite is My Name." Previous honorees for the Cecil B. DeMille Award include Tom Hanks, Oprah Winfrey and Meryl Streep.

Police: Man charged in Takeoff's death tried to avoid arrest

HOUSTON (AP)—The man accused of fatally shooting rapper Takeoff last month outside a Houston bowling alley sought information about using fake plane tickets to obtain an expedited passport in his efforts to flee the country, and repeatedly made online searches about whether he was a suspect in the case, prosecutors alleged during a court hearing Wednesday.

But attorneys for Patrick Xavier Clark, 33, say their client never had any intention of leaving Houston and he will likely pursue self-defense in the case, as he has asserted his innocence.

"We feel comfortable that when the time is right that Mr. Clark will have a valid and meritorious claim for self-defense," Letitia Quinones, one of Clark's attorneys, said after the hearing. She declined to provide additional details on this to reporters, but during the hearing, she suggested that Clark only fired after someone shot at him first. Police say Clark fired the first shot.

Takeoff was shot in the head and back as more than 30 people were leaving a private party at the bowling alley around 2:30 a.m. on Nov. 1. Houston police have said the gunfire followed a disagreement over a "lucrative" game of dice outside the bowling alley, but that the 28-year-old rapper was not involved and was "an innocent bystander."

Clark was arrested on Dec. 1 on a murder charge.

During Wednesday's hearing, Clark's attorneys had sought to have his bond reduced from $2 million to $100,000. But state District Judge Josh Hill was initially hesitant to reduce his bond, believing he could be a flight risk and that Clark's "Google searches for fake tickets cause me a great deal of concern."

During the hearing, Houston police Sgt. Michael Burrow testified that a review of Clark's cell phone after his arrest found he had made online searches for fake plane tickets. Prosecutors suggested these searches were tied to Clark's efforts to get an expedited passport. Investigators also found multiple searches on his cell phone in which Clark looked at news articles about the shooting and whether he was named as a suspect, he said.

"It was my belief he was preparing to flee the country," Burrow said.

'When Harry Met Sally,' 'Iron Man' added to film registry

By JOCELYN NOVECK
AP NATIONAL WRITER

They'll have what she's having.

The 1989 rom-com "When Harry Met Sally" is one of 25 films chosen this year to enter the National Film Registry, a list that ranges from Disney's "The Little Mermaid" to an 1898 silent documentary, long thought lost, about the Mardi Gras parade in New Orleans.

Also chosen this year for preservation: Marvel's "Iron Man," John Waters' "Hairspray," Brian de Palma's "Carrie" and the 1950 "Cyrano de Bergerac" starring Jose Ferrer, whose performance made him the first Hispanic actor to win a best actor Oscar.

The registry is housed at the Library of Congress, which since 1988 has selected movies for preservation based on their cultural and historic importance. This year's picks bring the total number of films in the registry to 850 — many of which are among the 1.7 million films in the library's collections.

The oldest film selected this year is the 1898 "Mardi Gras Carnival," a silent-era documentary with the earliest known footage of the carnival in New Orleans. A copy was recently found at the Eye Filmmuseum in the Netherlands. Showing floats, spectators and marchers at a parade, the film is one of nine documentaries chosen, covering topics like the Attica prison rebellion, female union workers, mental health treatment, LGBTQ history and others.

And the most recent film on this year's list is the 2011 "Pariah," by Dee Rees, a coming-out story about a lesbian teen in Brooklyn that's considered a prominent film in modern queer cinema.

Actor Michael B. Jordan buys stake of UK club Bournemouth

BOURNEMOUTH, England (AP)—American actor Michael B. Jordan is part of the new ownership group of Premier League club Bournemouth.

Jordan

The club announced Tuesday that billionaire Bill Foley's takeover has been ratified by the league and that the "Creed" actor has a minority stake.

Previous owner Maxim Demin sold his 100% stake to Black Knight Football Club, of which Foley is the managing general partner.

Foley's Cannae Holdings announced in a separate statement that the Las Vegas-based firm paid $126 million for a 50.1% stake in the partnership.

Foley, a 77-year-old American businessman who also owns the NHL's Vegas Golden Knights, will assume the role of chairman of Bournemouth.

Jordan, who also starred in "Black Panther" and "Just Mercy," will work with Foley "in areas including global marketing and internationalization of the club," Cannae's announcement said.

Foley, who is chairman of Cannae, plans to attend Bournemouth's next home game—against Crystal Palace on New Year's Eve.

"We are thrilled to enter the vast European football market at an attractively priced valuation," Foley said in Cannae's statement.

"We can use what we learned in building the Vegas Golden Knights to create value for shareholders and fans at Bournemouth," he continued. "English football is a growth industry, and we see an opportunity to grow this historic club by investing in its infrastructure and operations with the goal of steering Bournemouth to a long-awaited leading role in the Premier League and global football."

Bournemouth is back in the Premier League after winning promotion from the second-tier Championship last season and has the smallest stadium in the English top flight, with a capacity of just 11,364.

Neither the club nor Cannae's statements included a comment from Jordan.

Demin, a Russian-born businessman, first bought a stake in Bournemouth in 2011.

Bournemouth is in 14th place in the Premier League, which has paused for the World Cup.

Choose the right time for sharing words of sympathy

DEAR ABBY: My father passed away a couple of years ago, and my mother passed on recently. I have noticed something that I would like to share with your readers. When I came back to work after the funeral, many well-meaning friends and co-workers approached me to express their sympathy.

Instead of a short message or a hug, the majority shared stories about the deaths of their loved ones. Many of them were fairly long. I believe they shared with me to emphasize that they understood what I was going through. What they didn't understand was that I didn't have the energy to listen to their stories after what I had just been through.

After Mom died, seven people came to me and did this. I was so drained afterward that I had to go home. The next day, one of my dear friends came into my office, handed me a thermos of homemade soup, told me she loved me and was here for me, hugged me and left. It was the most uplifting moment I had experienced since my mother's passing.

Please tell your readers that while they have been through trials, and these trials enable them to empathize with grieving survivors, so soon after that death is not the time to share these stories.

TIRED IN TOPEKA

DEAR TIRED: Many people don't know what to say when someone dies. While the individuals who offered their "extended" condolences meant well, I'm sure they would have been shocked had they been told it left you unable to function. Not everyone grieves in the same way.

Readers, it is important to take your cues from the person who is grieving. I am sharing this letter with you because the writer has a point. Sometimes the most effective message is a short one.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: My sister doesn't want children. I fully support her decision, and I'm happy she knows herself well enough to make it. She does, however, have what she refers to as her "fur babies." She has a wonderful, generous heart and is very charitable. My children have been blessed by their aunt's generosity.

My issue is: Lately, she has made a few comments about how I don't bring holiday gifts for her dogs. It's remarks like, "Well, my fur babies don't get gifts from their aunt." Am I missing something here? Should I feel guilty for not adding her pets to my gift list because she considers them equal in value to human children? I can't think of her dogs like I do my nieces and nephews. Am I wrong?

AUNT OF FUR BABIES?

DEAR AUNT: You may not consider your sister's dogs as equal to human children, but she does. Gift-giving is supposed to be reciprocal. Your sister has been generous with your children, and you now know it bothers her that her "fur babies" have been overlooked. When the next gift-giving cycle rolls around (I hear there are great sales going on now) drop by a pet store. It is the kind thing to do, and it shouldn't break the bank.

■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

OK HOBBES, I'VE GOT A PLAN.
YEAH?
IF I DO TEN SPONTANEOUS ACTS OF GOOD WILL A DAY FROM NOW UNTIL CHRISTMAS, SANTA WILL HAVE TO BE LENIENT IN JUDGING THE REST OF THIS LAST YEAR! I CAN CLAIM I'VE TURNED A NEW LEAF!
TEN SPONTANEOUS ACTS OF GOOD WILL A DAY? THAT'S PRETTY MANY.
DON'T REMIND ME.
WELL, HERE'S YOUR CHANCE. SUSIE'S COMING THIS WAY.
MAYBE I'LL START TOMORROW AND DO 20 A DAY.
© 1992 Watterson/Distributed By Andrews McMeel Syndication
12-16

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

LIZ, I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO GET YOU FOR CHRISTMAS!
OH, JON... YOU DON'T HAVE TO GET ME ANYTHING
IT'S A TRAP, ISN'T IT?
YOU'RE TOAST, YULE BOY
© 2022 PAWS, INC. All Rights Reserved.
Distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndication
JIM DAVIS 12-16

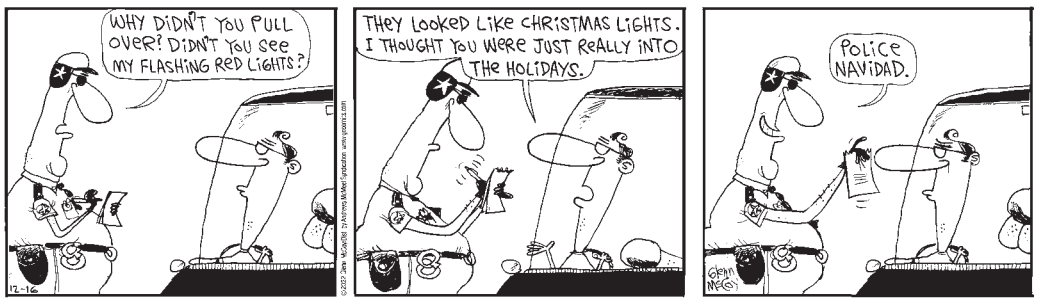
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

MAN. LOOK AT IT OUT THERE.
IT'S REALLY COMING DOWN!
JUST A PERFECT DAY TO CURL UP WITH A BOOK AND A CUP OF COCOA AND A–
I THOUGHT YOU HAD A BIG DEADLINE?
SELF-DELUDING HERE, SON! READ THE ROOM!
www.gocomics.com
©2022 Andrews McMeel
12-16

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


WHY DIDN'T YOU PULL OVER? DIDN'T YOU SEE MY FLASHING RED LIGHTS?
THEY LOOKED LIKE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS. I THOUGHT YOU WERE JUST REALLY INTO THE HOLIDAYS.
POLICE NAVIDAD.
12-16

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Politico Stevenson
6 Bit of advice
9 Airline to Sweden
12 Pianist Glenn
13 Work with
14 Blaster's need
15 Perfectly timed
16 Italian pal
18 Pictures
20 Small combo
21 Ms. Farrow
23 "Do the Right Thing" pizzeria owner
24 Allayed
25 Annapolis sch.
27 Plank
29 Abase oneself
31 Van Gogh painting
35 Declares
37 Saab model
38 Mountain crest
41 Yale grad
43 Jamie Foxx biopic
44 "Brave New World" drug
45 First game of the season
47 Choir member
49 Bargains
52 Ballpark fig.
53 California's Big —
54 Column style
55 Messy room
56 DDE predecessor
57 Dangerous bacteria

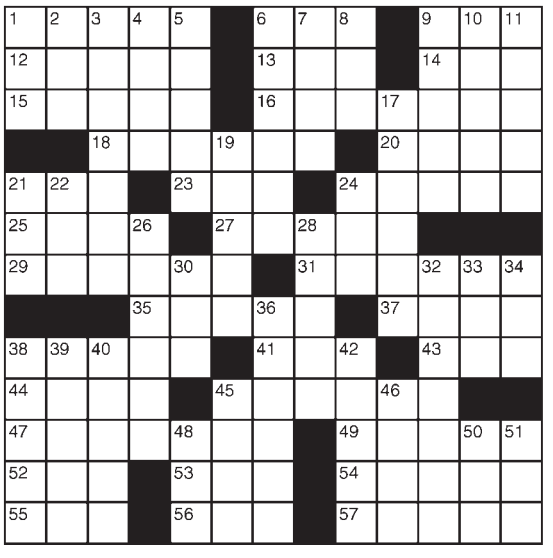
DOWN

1 Past
2 Mafia boss
3 Opera legend Pavarotti
4 Grad
5 Concepts
6 Elvis' birthplace
7 "Nothing — it seems"
8 JFK Library architect
9 Luminaries
10 Sandy's owner
11 Offered one's seat
17 Sports venues
19 Roof feature
21 Coffee vessel
22 Leb. neighbor
24 Mess up
26 Online icon
28 Supermarket section
30 First lady?
32 Hot chili pepper
33 Time line period
34 Tofu source
36 Bulletin
38 Ninnies
39 Perch
40 Void
42 Privately made film
45 Burden
46 Fair-hiring org.
48 Fire sign?
50 Rapper — Kim
51 High school subj.

Solution time: 25 mins.

O	A	K	S		T	D	S		S	T	E	P
R	U	N	E		O	O	P		T	O	R	E
A	T	O	P		W	E	E		I	W	I	N
L	O	T	I	O	N		C	A	N	N	E	S
			A	R	C			C	T	S		
P	I	C	S		A	M	B	U	S	H	E	D
O	D	A			R	O	O			I	N	D
E	S	P	R	E	S	S	O		O	P	T	S
		E	A	T			M	A	N			
U	N	T	I	D	Y		T	A	H	I	T	I
T	A	O	S		E	G	O		O	D	O	R
A	S	W	E		W	O	W		L	E	D	A
H	A	N	D		S	O	N		D	A	D	S

Yesterday's answer 12-16



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Hallee Hirsh, 35; Benjamin Bratt, 59; Sam Robards, 61; Billy Gibbons, 73.

Happy Birthday: Take a practical approach to life, lend a helping hand and participate rather than stand on the sidelines. Be upfront, honest and kind, and don't be afraid to stand up for yourself and your rights. Put your energy where it does the best, get involved in activities you can enjoy with someone special and take responsibility for your happiness. Choose peace over discord. Your numbers are 7, 11, 15, 24, 31, 36, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Be an insightful observer. Not everyone will be honest about their opinions or feelings. Expect to be misled if you don't ask questions and verify facts. Don't make a move for the wrong reason. Bide your time and calculate the risks. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Focus on learning, listening, formulating and deciding what you want to do next. Change may be daunting, but the possibilities are exciting. Face the future with optimism, and refuse to let fear hold you back. It's full steam ahead. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Participate in activities that increase your awareness and challenge you. Don't let outside factors stand between you and your goal. Contribute to what you feel passionate about, not what someone else guilts you into doing. Take control and follow your heart. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Do what you can to help others, but don't let anyone take advantage of you or stand between you and your success. Speak up and let others know how you feel and what you intend to do as you move forward. Avoid poor behavior. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Make plans with friends or relatives. Discussions will lead to positive input and hands-on help. Speak from the heart, and you'll make a difference to someone you love. A promise made will change your life and bring you closer to your goals. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Don't let anger stand in your way. Look past any negativity and pick a lane that has fewer challenges. Change is good, and it's time to initiate what makes you happy. Love and romance are favored, and personal growth will enlighten you. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Engage in physical activity, social events and intellectual pursuits that open doors to new and exciting alternatives. Follow the path that makes you happy, and don't make a fuss if a close friend, relative or lover chooses to do something different. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Step outside your comfort zone and let your imagination take over. Express yourself emotionally, and the response you receive will clear your head and help you gain perspective and put a solid plan in place. Involve loved ones in your goals. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Learn from experience. Don't let your generous spirit be taken advantage of by someone eager to make you look bad. If you don't like something, speak up and follow the most benevolent path. Control your emotions and avoid an incident. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Live in the moment and enjoy what life offers. Stop talking about your plans; put them in motion. Push forward with enthusiasm and confidence. You stand to gain if you trust and believe in yourself. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Channel your energy into your home and family. Make plans to end the year by putting the past behind you and looking to the future with anticipation. Set high standards, and follow your heart and the path that suits you. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* You'll be the one to make people listen, laugh and strive to improve with your unique insight and your friendly disposition. Share your feelings with someone special, and you'll find out where you stand and what's possible heading forward. Volunteer work will gratify you and encourage personal growth. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are clever, distinctive and energetic. You are talented and ambitious.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

1			5		3			2
			9		7			
		4				1		
9	2						8	6
6	7						1	4
		3				2		
			3		6			
7			2		8			9

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 12/16

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

4	7	5	3	9	2	1	8	6
2	9	3	8	6	1	4	5	7
6	1	8	5	7	4	2	3	9
5	6	2	4	1	8	7	9	3
9	4	7	2	3	6	5	1	8
8	3	1	7	5	9	6	2	4
3	2	4	1	8	7	9	6	5
7	5	9	6	2	3	8	4	1
1	8	6	9	4	5	3	7	2

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

SPELUNKING **Solution: 8 letters**

W	A	L	K	D	P	O	L	E	S	T	I	U	S	S
A	U	O	U	T	D	O	O	R	S	P	A	M	T	O
I	N	K	T	H	G	I	T	K	A	Y	A	K	A	I
S	D	N	C	A	M	P	C	H	A	I	N	C	B	L
T	E	E	O	A	M	O	G	R	O	T	T	O	E	A
B	R	E	M	T	R	A	I	G	S	L	O	V	N	N
E	G	P	P	R	I	V	E	R	E	T	E	E	I	O
L	R	A	A	A	C	T	P	R	S	A	L	R	A	I
T	O	D	S	V	O	M	U	G	T	G	R	A	T	T
T	U	S	S	E	A	T	L	N	N	S	U	L	N	A
E	N	V	R	L	N	O	C	U	N	I	O	L	U	E
M	D	O	D	E	V	A	J	E	R	E	T	U	O	R
L	P	A	V	E	V	R	E	D	D	A	L	F	M	C
E	E	D	S	E	N	I	L	A	N	E	R	D	A	E
H	A	R	N	E	S	S	P	O	R	D	N	I	A	R

© 2022 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 12/16

Adrenaline, Adventure, Bats, Boots, Camp, Cave, Chain, Compass, Coverall, Gear, Gloves, Grotto, Harness, Headlamp, Helmet, Jungle, Kayak, Knee Pads, Ladder, Maps, Mountain, Outdoor, Pole, Pothole, Rack, Rafting, Raindrops, Recreational, River, Rock, Rope, Route, Soil, Space, Stream, Suit, Tight, Tour, Travel, Tunnel, Underground, Waist Belt, Walk

Yesterday's Answer: Wildlife

To purchase **WONDERWORD** books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

Curry leaves with shoulder injury, Warriors fall to Pacers

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Tyrese Haliburton scored 29 points and the Indiana Pacers beat the Golden State 125-119 on Wednesday night, with Warriors star Stephen Curry unable to finish because of a left shoulder injury.

Curry scored 24 of his 38 points in the first half for the defending champion Warriors, but departed with 2:04 remaining in the third quarter. The Warriors, who lost at Milwaukee on Tuesday night, have lost four of five games. They fell to 2-12 on the road.

Bennedict Mathurin added 24 points for Indiana, which snapped a two-game skid by sweeping the Warriors for the first time since 2017-18 and just the second time in a decade. Haliburton rebounded from his lowest-scoring game with the Pacers — one point — by going 9 of 17 from the field and making five of Indiana's 20 3-pointers.

Jordan Poole scored 20 points for Golden State. The Warriors played without Klay Thompson (right knee) and Andrew Wiggins (abdominal muscle). Draymond Green scored a season-low one point in 27 minutes and was ejected in the fourth quarter.

AP

Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (30) attempts a shot between Indiana Pacers center Myles Turner (33) and forward Aaron Nesmith (23) during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Indianapolis, Wednesday, Dec. 14, 2022.

Nuggets 141, Wizards 128

In Denver, Nikola Jokic had a season-high 43 points to go with 14 rebounds and eight assists and Denver overcame strong games from former teammates Will Barton and Monte Morris to beat undermanned Washington.

Jokic shot 17 of 20 from the field, missing just one attempt from inside the 3-point line in a fast-paced game devoid of much defense. Bones Hyland scored 23 points and Aaron Gordon added 22. Denver shot 65% from the field and had a whopping 98 points in the paint in its third straight win.

Barton matched a season best with 22 points and Morris added a season-high 20 in Washington's eighth straight loss. Kyle Kuzma scored 24 points.

Pistons 141, Hornets 134, OT

In Charlotte, N.C., Alec Burks scored a season-high 27 points, Killian Hayes added 25 and Detroit spoiled LaMelo Ball's return for Charlotte.

Burks had five points in overtime, including his fourth 3-pointer of the game with 1:47 left to put the Pistons up for good. Bojan Bogdanovic had 24 points.

Kelly Oubre Jr. scored 28 points to lead the Hornets. Ball had with 23 points on 9-of-18 shooting and 11 assists in his first game since Nov. 16 because of a sprained left ankle. But he fouled out with 29.6 seconds left in regulation.

Magic 135, Hawks 124

In Orlando, Fla., Franz Wagner scored 24 points, Orlando had a franchise-record 50 points in the first quarter and the Magic beat Atlanta for their fourth straight victory.

Cole Anthony finished the first period with two free throws to make it 50-22, the most points the Magic have ever scored in any quarter.

Bol Bol added 21 points, Paolo Banchero had 20 points and six rebounds and Markelle Fultz finished with 16 points, seven rebounds and nine assists.

DeAndre Hunter scored 20 of his 25 points in the second quarter for Atlanta. Trae Young added 19 points and 16 assists. The Hawks have lost five of six.

Heat 110, Thunder 108

In Oklahoma City, Tyler Herro made a career-high nine 3-pointers, hit the go-ahead jumper and scored 35 points in Miami's victory over Oklahoma City.

Herro made a mid-range jumper to finish the scoring with 4.9 seconds left. Oklahoma City's Shai Gilgeous-Alexander missed a mid-range jumper, and Josh Giddey's putback rimmed out at the buzzer.

The Heat made a season-high 24 3-pointers — with Herro going 9 of 17 — in sending the Thunder to their fourth straight loss. Miami star Jimmy Butler sat out to rest his right knee.

Gilgeous-Alexander led Oklahoma City with 27 points.

Knicks 128, Bulls 120, OT

In Chicago, Julius Randle scored 31 points and Jalen Brunson added a season-high 30, including a 3-pointer with less than a minute left in overtime, and New York outlasted Chicago for its fifth straight victory.

Randle missed a chance to win the game in regulation when his step-back shot from the baseline resulted in an air ball and shot-clock violation with 0.7 seconds left. But Quentin Grimes and Brunson each nailed 3-pointers with less than a minute left in OT to give the Knicks a nine-point lead.

DeMar DeRozan scored 32 points for Chicago.

Clippers 99, Timberwolves 88

In Los Angeles, Kawhi Leonard scored 19 points, Paul George had a triple-double and Los Angelesrallied to beat undermanned Minnesota for its third straight victory.

George had 17 points, 11 rebounds and 11 assists. Luke Kennard added season highs of 16 points and four 3-pointers as six Clippers scored in double figures.

Anthony Edwards led Minnesota with 19 points while in foul trouble. Rudy Gobert had 11 points and 13 rebounds.

Kings 124, Raptors 123

In Toronto, De'Aaron Fox had 27 points and 10 assists, Domantas Sabonis added 21 points and 20 rebounds and Sacramento held on to beat Toronto.

Malik Monk scored 24 points and Terence Davis had 19 against his former team as the Kings overcame a 16-point second-quarter deficit to win for the second time in their past 11 games north of the border.

Fred VanVleet scored a season-high 39 points for Toronto, but missed a 3-pointer that would have tied it with four seconds to go.

Scottie Barnes had 27 points and 10 assists for Toronto.

Cavaliers 105, Mavericks 90

In Dallas, Donovan Mitchell scored 34 points against the team that eliminated him from the playoffs last season and Cleveland beat Dallas.

It was Mitchell's first time to see Luka Doncic and Dallas since his final game with Utah last April, a 98-96 loss at home in Game 6 of the first round in the Western Conference. Mitchell switched to the East as the centerpiece of a blockbuster offseason trade.

Doncic scored 30 points and had the Mavericks within nine late in the third quarter and midway through the fourth. Mitchell answered Dallas' fourth-quarter surge with a 3-pointer, and the Cavs led by at least 10 the rest of the way.

Trail Blazers 128, Spurs 112

In San Antonio, Damian Lillard had 37 points and Portland beat San Antonio for itsr third straight victory and fifth in six games.

Anfernee Simons added 23 points for Portland.

Keldon Johnson led San Antonio with 25 points, The Spurs had won three in a row after dropping 11 straight.

NBA BRIEFS

Warriors' Green says Bucks fan 'threatened' him; fan tossed

MILWAUKEE (AP)—A fan was ejected following a complaint by Golden State Warriors star Draymond Green during a game at Milwaukee on Tuesday night, and the Bucks said they were investigating the incident and consulting with the NBA.

The fan said "some threatening stuff to my life," Green said.

Golden State's Stephen Curry was shooting free throws with 5:19 left in the third quarter when Green spoke with a game official, repeatedly pointing toward a man sitting a few rows off the opposite baseline.

The official conferred with security personnel at Firserv Forum, and the fan was escorted out. Earlier in the period, the fan and Green had exchanged words.

"I was this close to really going back and diving all the way in, but just went back and told the official. And when I told the official, he said, he's got to get out of here," Green said.

"You just hope it gets to the point to where these leagues can work with legislators to implement laws, because that's the only thing that's going to ultimately correct the issue, is if you know something real is going to happen to you," he said.

After Milwaukee's 128-111 win, the Bucks said in a statement: "Under the referee's discretion, we are investigating the situation and we are conferring with the NBA."

The 32-year-old Green scored two points and had six rebounds and seven assists in the loss. He is averaging nine points, six rebounds and seven assists for the reigning NBA champions.

Two weeks ago, Green was fined $25,000 by the NBA "for directing obscene language toward a fan." The situation occurred during the fourth quarter of Golden State's loss at Dallas on Nov. 29.

NBA, players finalize new Feb. 8 deadline for CBA opt-out

NEW YORK (AP)—The NBA and its players now have until Feb. 8 if either side wants to opt out of the current collective bargaining agreement, after the league's board of governors on Wednesday approved a plan to push the deadline back.

The original opt-out deadline was Thursday. The sides agreed last week to push the date back and allow more time for talks with hope of getting closer to a new CBA deal.

There are "ongoing efforts to reach a new agreement," the league and the National Basketball Players Association said Wednesday. The deadline could be pushed back again if the sides deem it necessary. If either side opts out, the current CBA will expire on June 30.

Among the issues that the NBA and the NBPA have been discussing in recent weeks is a return to letting players enter the draft straight out high school without waiting a year — that move is expected to be included in the next CBA — along with what the league considers an "upper spending limit" that would significantly tighten the rules on how much teams can spend each year on their roster.

There has not been a labor-related stoppage in the NBA since 2011, when a lockout lasted just over five months and saw the 2011-12 season reduced from 82 to 66 games.

JTM Saipan overhauls NAPA in open caging

MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

JTM Saipan used a balanced scoring attack to down NAPA Auto Parts, 72-63, in the open division of the Legends Sports Association Invitational Basketball League last Sunday at the Koblerville Basketball Court.

After a lackluster opening quarter that saw them trail NAPA, 18-21, JTM Saipan turned on the turbochargers and managed to overhaul NAPA's lead to take a 33-29 spread at the half.

They would then choke NAPA's scorers in third, limiting them to just 15 points, while shooting the lights out with 23 of their own to open up a 12-point lead, 56-44, heading into the fourth and final quarter.

In the payoff period, JTM Saipan then withstood NAPA's repeated rallies to zoom to the finish line with the 9-point win.

Speedster Joseph Torres led JTM Saipan with 19 points, while Jonel Broncano (16 points), Ryan Bayna (15 points), and Vinz Rodriguez (11 points) all finished in double figures for the now 4-1 team.

NAPA, which fell to 3-2 in the open division standings, was paced by the 18 points of Preston Basa, while veteran big man Jorge De Guzman added 13 points.

Other results in the open division saw Marianas Health Services improve to 2-3 following a 75-66 victory over Pepoy's Rest Cafe, which is still winless in five outings.

Changming Store rebounded from last week's loss to league-leader Blue Haus by dismantling Padrinos Tuesday Club, 76-59. The latter is now at 4-1, while the former dropped to 2-3.

Pacific Best Choice then defeated another winless team after a 75-67 win over Al-Ger Manpower. Pacific Best hiked its record to 3-2, while dealing their opponents a fifth loss in as many tries.

Blue Haus kept its unblemished record following a 65-42 ramrodding of Vizion Insurance. It was the fifth win against zero losses for Blue Haus, while Vizion Insurance absorbed its third loss compared to two wins.

Vizion Insurance's older brothers in the masters division weren't as unlucky as there was no risk involved in their 103-78 shellacking of winless Legends Elite. Vizion improved to 2-3, while Legends continued to fall with its fifth loss in as many games.

In the shocker of the day, erstwhile unbeaten JSN Construction lost to Blue Haus, 85-76. In the first round, JSN Construction snapped Blue Haus' undefeated streak in the masters division. Both teams now have identical 4-1 cards.

JTM Saipan 72 – Torres 19, Jon. Broncano 16, Bayna 15, Rodriguez 11, Romo 3, Ruiz 3, Rivera 2.

NAPA Auto Parts 63 – Basa 18, De Guzman 13, Tibayan 9, Ege 8, Diaz 6, Hernandez 2, Escano 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-21, 33-29, 56-44, 72-63.

MARK RABAGO
JTM Saipan's Vinz Rodriguez stretches for a layup against NAPA Auto Parts' Rommel Bartolo in the open division of the Legends Sports Association Invitational Basketball League last Sunday at the Koblerville Basketball Court.

Benavente is SGA October ace

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Tony Benavente topped the Saipan Golf Association Ace of the Month Tournament for October held last Oct. 23 at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort east course.

Benavente fired a net 67 following a gross of 73 built around a 38 in the front and a 35 in the back.

Rick Kautz took second place with his net 68. He shot a 39-40 for a gross of 79.

Third place was a tie between Joe Sablan and Frances Sablan after both wound up with identical net scores of 75. The former had a 90 gross (50-48), while the latter shot a 103 gross (51-52).

In the closest to the pin contest, Attorney General Edward Manibusan mastered holes No. 4 and 6, while Kautz won hole No. 11. Alex Tudela was without peer in hole No. 15.

In the longest drive competition, Nick Sablan brought out the lumber in hole No. 3 and ditto for Tony Benavente in hole No. 18.

Benavente now joins Edward C. Sablan (January), Frances M. Sablan (February), Nick C. Sablan (March), Larry I. Deleon Guerrero (April), Alex Tudela (May), Mariano Fajardo (June), Rick Kautz (July), Das Krishnan (August) and Edward Manibusan (September) in the 2022 SGA Ace of the Month Tournament.

The SGA 2022 November Ace of the Month Tournament is scheduled for this Sunday, Dec. 18, at Laolao Bay Golf & Resort's west course. Tee time is at 9 am, with the show time at 8:30am. The December Ace is proposed for January 2023 along with the Ace of Aces 2022 and January Ace 2023.

Benavente

SHIRLEY'S

From Page 36

rano, Toremy Diaz, Elaine Enriquez, Marrielle Gariguez, Bernadette Horey, Mae Ito, Mikayla Lopez, Neriah Lumbad, Dianne Pablo, Gabrielle Race, Alexandria Vergara, Friendly Pena, and Lillian Podzeiwski.

In results from the other game of the night, Chamorittas and TakeCare ended with a 2-2 draw. Andrei Kaithlyn Chavez and Rosie Jean Saralu scored the two goals for the Chamorittas, while Summer Manahane and Pia Ngewakl scored the two for TakeCare.

The Northern Mariana Islands Football Association also thanked sponsors Dove and D&Q for supporting the women's program and gifting the winners with gift bags of their Dove merchandise, "we truly appreciate their efforts in empowering women in our community."

In second place in the Premier Division is Kanoa with three wins, one draw, and two losses; third is TakeCare with a 1-2-3 card, followed by Chamorritas with zero wins, one draw, and five losses.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Shirley's FC's Jannah Casarino is the Golden Boot and MVP awardee of the Tinakcha-Awaal or Premier Division in the 2022 Dove Women's League.

MBAPPE

From Page 36

alive," Morocco coach Walid Regragui said. "We felt we could have gone further but we have given a good image of Morocco and of African football. That was important to us."

Remarkably, Hernandez's early goal was the first scored against Morocco by an opposition player in the tournament — the other had been an own-goal in the group stage — but the team responded to that and injury issues in its defense with a fearless performance in front of tens of thousands of fans who dominated the 60,000-seat Al Bayt Stadium.

France was forced into some last-ditch defending at times but has developed a knack of pulling out victories despite not playing its best. The country will be playing in the final for the fourth time in the last seven World Cups, more than anyone else.

"It wasn't easy," France coach Didier Deschamps said, "and we showed our quality, experience and team spirit."

Mbappé failed to add to his five goals in the tournament but helped create the opener for Hernandez when his shot deflected off a defender and into the path of the left back. Hernandez let the ball bounce before driving a downward effort into the net from a tight angle.

Typically a defense-first team, Morocco was forced to come out and play even though it was reeling from losing Nayef Aguerd to injury in the warmup and another center back, captain Romain Saiss, after only 21 minutes because of a hamstring injury. Both players were doubts ahead of the game but were risked by Regragui along with left back Noussair Mazraoui, who has had the flu and only lasted until halftime.

Roared on by its red-and-green-clad fans, Morocco came closest to scoring when Jawad El Yamiq hit the post with an overhead kick in the 44th minute and forced France to defend in numbers, with Antoine Griezmann — the team's playmaker — effectively playing as a deep-lying midfielder and often clearing balls from inside his box.

However, Mbappé enjoyed more space as Morocco tired late in the second half and he was moved into a central position. After dribbling past two defenders, he took a shot that deflected toward Kolo Muani, who tapped in having been on the field for less than a minute.

The goal was celebrated in the VIP seats by Macron, who flew in for the match and had earlier visited the Souq Waqif bazaar in Doha before traveling to the stadium. The president congratulated France's players in the locker room after the match.

They might need to raise their game against Argentina, though.

"Any team with Messi in," Griezmann said, "is a totally different proposition."

TOP SCORER

The World Cup trophy isn't the only thing at stake on Sunday. Messi and Mbappé are tied as the leading scorers with five goals as they chase the Golden Boot award.

THIRD PLACE

Morocco's World Cup isn't over. The team will play the third-place playoff match against Croatia at Khalifa International Stadium on Saturday.

KOREAN

From Page 35

Bears; and Soo-Chang Sim, baseball commentator and former baseball player.

This event came after the Marianas Visitors Authority signed a one-year memorandum of understanding in Seoul on Dec. 1, 2022, with the Korean Professional Baseball Players Association, which is a step forward in its sports tourism agenda.

"Since this is a rare opportunity to have so many professional baseball players on island, we've arranged the baseball clinic as a part of the project," said Skye Seo from MVA.

According to MVA, this month's visit of Korean Professional Baseball Players Association players came as part of a media tour, with MBC Plus filming an entertainment show titled SwingStar, that features professional baseball players, LPGA professional golfers, and Korean celebrities playing a golf tournament at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

MBC Plus has five cable TV channels including MBC EVERY1 for entertainment and MBC Sports+ for sports, with 2 million subscribers. 10 episodes of the Golf Championship on Saipan will be aired between January and April 2023.

World Cup Finals: A tale of 2 stars

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselynmonroyo@gmail.com
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Let's leave the game analysis to the experts and touch on the other highlights of the Argentina-France World Cup Final showdown in Qatar: Lionel Messi and Kylian Mbappe.

One will try to make a fitting ending to his storied career, while the other hopes to continue his path to greatness.

The Argentina-France game will be played this Monday (Saipan time) and Messi hopes to walk away from the sport with the FIFA World Cup trophy that has eluded him since he debuted for the La Albiceleste in World Cup in 2006. On top of having the chance to finally hoist the gold-plated trophy in his last dance on the World Cup stage, the 35-year-old will have the most World Cup appearances (by a male player) in the history of the prestigious event, as the game against France will be his 26th. In their semis match over Croatia, Messi's 25th World Cup stint tied the record of Germany's Lothar Matthäus.

Mbappe

Messi

Going into the World Cup Finals, the stats' gods are on Messi's side—at least his individual stats. He has scored five times which incidentally ties him with Mbappe for the most goals scored so far in Qatar. The Paris Saint-Germain forward is also the top scorer for Argentina in the history of World Cup with his 11, eclipsing the 10 of Gabriel Batistuta. Messi's 16 goals this year is his best since suiting up for the Argentina men's senior team 16 years ago.

The left-footed Messi is a double-threat, as he does not only possess a great ability to score, but also has the skills to help his teammates hit the board. Remember how he fed Julian Alvarez in the second half of their 3-0 semis win over 2018 finalist Croatia? Messi attacked and toyed with the defense of Josko Gvardiol, who must have felt lightheaded after turning left and right on several occasions before he haplessly watched the Argentinian star pass the ball to Alvarez for the finish. Messi leads the Qatar World Cup in assists with three so far.

If there's a player on the French side that could crush Messi's World Cup dreams, that would be rising star Mbappe.

The self-confessed Ronaldo fan stole the thunder from the more established football stars in the 2018 FIFA World Cup in Brazil. Mbappe scored four goals in his debut—one in their 4-2 finals win over Croatia, the game-winner in their scary 4-3 victory over Peru, and two against Messi and company, as France booted out Argentina in the Round of 16, 4-2. At 19, he was the first teenager to score in the World Cup Finals since the fabled Pele (two goals), then aged 17, did it in 1958 in Brazil's 5-2 win over hosts Sweden.

Fast forward to 2022. Here comes Mbappe, showing he belongs in the world of Messi, Ronaldo, and other legends in the sport. For his tournament-best 5 goals in Qatar, he had a brace against Poland in the quarterfinals and also two versus Denmark, while he made one versus Australia. He has stepped up for France in absence of key players Paul Pogba, N'Golo Kante, Karim Benzema.

Just in his second World Cup appearance and after 11 games, the PSG striker has collected 9 goals, surpassing Les Bleus' pride Thierry Henry (6) and Zinedine Zidane (5). Mbappe has also broken another Pele record (8 World Cup goals before the age of 24) and is looking at matching the legend's back-to-back World Cup titles that the latter won when he was 21.

Barring injuries and other untoward incidents, the lightning-fast Mbappe is heading for more World Cup participation and a lot of chances to break the record (13 goals) of France's prolific striker Just Fontaine. Ronaldo, who also indicated the Qatar World Cup is his last, scored 9 in his five World Cup appearances. Messi's 11 is from his five World Cup stints, too. Mbappe will still be counting.

Will Mbappe make it back-to-back and spoil Messi's date with history? Or will Messi get his crowning glory?

I will go for the sentimental favorite.

Queens of Diamond rules Game 1

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

The Queens of Diamond is closer than ever to the softball crown as they ruled Game 1 of the best-of-three championship against the Hot Shots, 7-6, in the 2022 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball League last Sunday at the Dandan Softball Field.

While the Hot Shots made it past home plate to open up the game, the Queens put their swinging into fifth gear in their turn with the bat, bringing in four runs in the first inning for a three-run lead.

They were neck-and-neck from then on as the Hot Shots found some horsepower within their lineup to score three runs for a tied game. The tie was short-lived though as one run was scored by the Queens, followed by a goose egg from the Hot Shots in the next inning, for a 5-4 game.

One more run was made in the third inning by Queens pitcher Bert Camacho to boost the lead by two runs.

The Hot Shots then equalized as they found the rhythm in their swings for two runs by Keona Rogopes and Devonne Sablan in the fourth inning.

Silence then reigned in the next innings for both teams until a clutch run was made by Queens leading batter Kiana Aldan, who scored the tie-breaking seventh run, for a final score of 7-6.

Game 2 of the championship continues this Sunday, Dec. 18, at 10am. If needed, Game 3 is scheduled for 12pm.

For the men's division, Game 1 of the best-of-three championship between Tokahao and Hagu La'mun starts at 9am, with Game 2 at 11am. If needed, Game 3 is scheduled for 1pm.

LEIGH GASES

Queens of Diamond's Keolani Rios went 2-for-3 against the Hot Shots in Game 1 of the women's division championship of the 2022 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball League last Sunday at the Dandan Softball Field.

Korean pro baseball players hold clinic

LEIGH GASES

Kang-Min Kim, a Korean professional baseball player and 2022 Korean Series' most valuable player, tosses a ball to a Saipan Little League Baseball player during a baseball clinic held at the Francisco "Tan Ko" M. Palacios Baseball Field Tuesday night.

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Professional Korean baseball players took to the field with more than 50 of Saipan's own young ball players to showcase their skills in a clinic at the Francisco "Tan Ko" M. Palacios Baseball Field last Tuesday night.

Parents of the youth, along with fans of America's favorite pastime, flocked to the field to catch a glimpse of the 19 Korean baseball players from different professional teams in South Korea engaging and instructing those in attendance the fundamentals of the game.

From 5pm to 7pm, the baseball players were welcomed, held an introduction to the clinic, grouped the eager-to-learn youth, and lessons in throwing, grounding, batting, and defense were taught.

After the clinic, the children lined up for autographs on their baseball gear.

Saipan Little League Baseball's Frank Ada, who was in attendance along with other SLLB members and coaches, said that the clinic was a "great opportunity" for the youth.

"This is a great opportunity for our kids. For one, we've been idle for almost four years due to the typhoon that destroyed the baseball field, as well as the pandemic that held everything back. We're three years, almost four years behind. So this is a great opportunity for all the young kids to come out and learn from these Korean professional baseball players," said Ada.

"Even the parents are so excited, the kids are excited. And they're happy to come out and play baseball. They missed it."

Franklin Aldan Jr., a 13-year-old SLLB baseball player from the Comets said that "the experience was nice because we got to play with these guys. We learned how to [catch] ground balls and catch pop flies."

Michael Tomokane, assistant coach for the As Matuis Twins, said that the turnout "was awesome. I can tell that they [were] really motivated and the kids were enjoying every aspect of the training. Hopefully they gain [some] knowledge… and hopefully they don't forget about it."

The Korean baseball players included 2022 Korean Series most valuable player Kang-Min Kim and Kyung-Eun Nho from SSG Landers; Ji-Young Lee and Jae-Hyeon Kim from KEEUM; Jin-Seong Kim and Do-Hwan Heo from LG Twins; Jeong-Dae Bae and Hyeong-Jun So from KT Wiz; Min-Hyeok Shin and Joo-Won Kim from NC Dinos; Yoon-Soo Kim and Tae-In Won from Samsung Lions; Jun-Yong Choi, Gang-Jun Lee, Won-Sam Jang, and Dae-Eun Lee from Lotte Giants; In-Tae Kim and Seung-Hyun Jang from Doosan

See KOREAN on Page 34

Curry leaves with shoulder injury, Warriors fall to Pacers

PAGE 33

Saipan Tribune
Sports

World Cup Finals: A tale of 2 stars

PAGE 35

Shirley's FC is Premier Division women's champs

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Shirley's Football Club is the Tinakcha-Awaal or Premier Division champion in the 2022 Dove Women's League after defeating Kanoa FC last Wednesday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Shirley's Football Club won the Tinakcha-Awaal or Premier Division title in the 2022 Dove Women's League after the conclusion of the season last Wednesday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

After sweeping the competition in five straight games, the women of Shirley's FC made it unscathed for the sixth time and ran away with the championship by defeating Kanoa Football Club, 4-2.

In the awards ceremony, the Golden Boot award went to Shirley's Jannah Casarino with 23 goals—the most in the season.

Casarino showed why her boots—or cleats in this case—were golden, as she scored two of Shirley's goals. She drew first blood in the fifth minute and scored one in the second half. Teammate Jerlayn Castillo scored the third goal in the 29th minute.

Later, as Kanoa FC tried to catch up, it was unfortunate as Aubrey Castro scored an own goal in the 16th minute, adding one goal for Shirley's. This may have cost them the game as her teammates scrambled to put a point up, with Audrey Castro scoring in the 20th minute and Irish Pagarao scoring in the 44th minute, but they were still 2 goals shy of a tie.

Time eventually ran out without more goals from either team and Shirley's was handed the victory.

Along with Casarino and Castillo in the championship team are Marilou Arriola, Jeraldine Castillo, Jhaza Mi-

See SHIRLEY'S on Page 34

Batallones breaks 100m breaststroke short course record

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

So far so good for Team NMI in the 2022 FINA World Championships in Melbourne.

Team NMI coach Hiroyuki Kimura said Mario Batallones unofficially shattered the national 100m breaststroke record and the mixed medley relay team of Batallones, Isaiah Aleksenko, Jinnosuke Suzuki, and Shoko Litulumar unofficially updated the CNMI record in the short course mixed relay.

Seeing action in Day 3 of the competition Wednesday, Batallones swam the women's 100m breaststroke in a time of 1:18.08, unofficially shattering the 1:20.03 standard former CNMI national swimmer Minerva Cabrera set in July 27, 2005 during the Pacific Mini Games in Palau.

Meanwhile, in Day 2 last Tuesday Batallones, Aleksenko, Suzuki, and Litulumar unofficially reset the CNMI record in the mixed medley relay with a swim of 1:58.93 that beat the 2:09.28 set by Lennosuke Suzuki, Juhn Tenorio, Jinju Thompson, and Aika Watanabe in April 19, 2019 during that year's Micronesian Swimming Championships in Palau.

It's also worthy to note that Team NMI beat Micronesian rivals the Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, and Papua New Guinea in the mixed medley relay.

In Day 1 last Monday, Litulumar swam her 100m backstroke to kickstart the CNMI participation in the 2022 FINA World Championships.

Kimura said Litulumar didn't reach her target, but she got a lot of experience with a swim of 1:14.72, good for 46th place in the event.

Before arriving in Australia, Kimura and the CNMI national swimmers had a stopover in Japan where they reunited with former national swimmer Juhn Tenorio in a mini swim camp.

Batallones, Aleksenko, Suzuki, and Litulumar trained at the Sports Academy Tomisato with Tenorio, who is in Japan to advance his prospects in enrolling at Hosei University.

Mbappe, France advance to final, defeat Morocco 2-0

By STEVE DOUGLAS
AP SPORTS WRITER

AL KHOR, Qatar (AP)—Kylian Mbappé vs. Lionel Messi.

Soccer's latest superstar against perhaps the sport's greatest player in the World Cup final just about everyone was hoping for.

France and Mbappé are headed back to the biggest game in soccer, and to a much-anticipated matchup with Argentina, after ending Morocco's historic run at the World Cup on Wednesday.

In front of the country's president, Emmanuel Macron, France beat Africa's first ever semi-finalist 2-0, with Mbappé playing a part in goals by Theo Hernandez in the fifth minute and substitute Randal Kolo Muani in the 79th.

Mbappé became a global phenomenon by leading France to the title in Russia in 2018 and has a chance to emulate Brazil great Pele as a champion in his first two World Cups when he comes up against the 35-year-old Messi, who has dominated the game with Cristiano Ronaldo for the past 15 years.

It's the dream final for many, with France looking to become the first team to retain the title since Brazil in 1962 and Argentina on a mission to win soccer's ultimate prize for the third time in what is likely to be Messi's last World Cup.

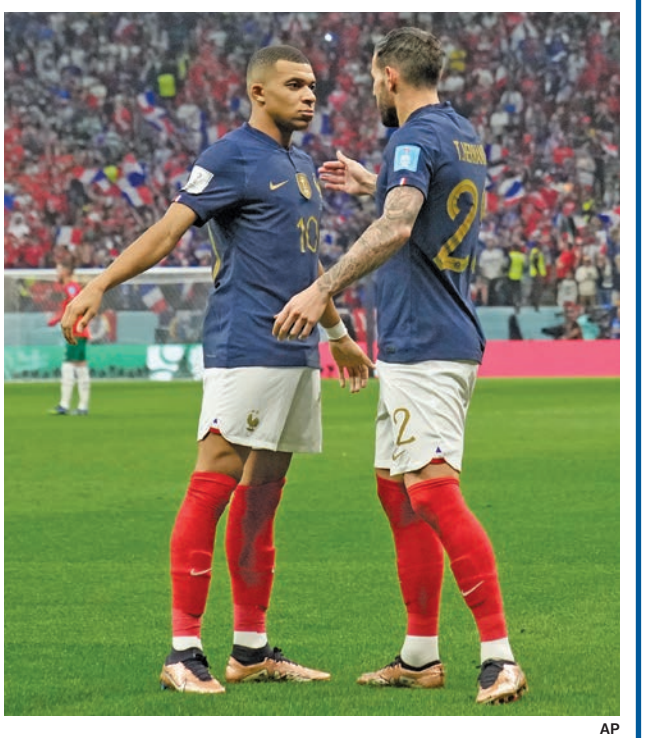
"We need all our strength, all our energy to face a very competitive team with one of the legends in the sport with Messi," France goalkeeper Hugo Lloris said.

There will be no team from the Arab world in the final of the first World Cup in the Middle East, a prospect that seemed nigh impossible before the tournament yet nearly happened in Qatar.

Morocco has been widely lauded for breaking ground for Africa and generated an outpouring of pride among Arab nations after topping a group containing Croatia and Belgium and eliminating two more European powers — Spain and Portugal — in the knockout stage. Their players gave France a far-from-easy ride, too, before collapsing on the ground in despair after the final whistle.

"We are disappointed for the Moroccan people — we wanted to keep their dream

See MBAPPE on Page 34



AP

France's Theo Hernandez, right, celebrates with Kylian Mbappe after scoring the opening goal during the World Cup semifinal soccer match between France and Morocco at the Al Bayt Stadium in Al Khor, Qatar, Wednesday, Dec. 14, 2022.